

September 28, 1992 LB 20

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Moore. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I guess the comments for the record also, because I frequently, Senator Chambers, find myself on the opposite side of the farm...major farm organizations which like to dub themselves as the spokesman for agriculture. And so I cannot let go, and challenge your comment that farmers are the biggest cheats in income taxes and small businessmen are second, for a variety of reasons. But again, I'm not going to get into that argument here today, that's not why we're here. But you do know how to get my button turned on and about every other button of the rural people in the state I'm sure. But I do want to make a couple of other points. And Senator Pirsch talks about these babies that have no fathers. The facts are that they all have a father. And the facts also are that even though families which were once a family and which are now no longer a family and where children are involved, we do not enforce the child support collection laws of this state. Probably the largest group of individual law breakers in this state are the county attorneys and those district judges who do not enforce those child support collection laws. One time I had a young lady who was forced to repay a substantial amount of food stamps because she fortunately found a job that gave her and her children some extra income and she didn't report it. But no one set about to bring to justice her ex-husband, who owed her many thousands of dollars of child support. The point I want to make here is this, that we seem to blame...place all of the blame upon the unwed mother, no blame upon the father. And we all know that a father exists somewhere. If there are abuses within the agency, if there are abuses in the system, then it is because the agency doesn't enforce the existing statutes. If the agency knows of a father then they have a responsibility to go after that individual and try to get some support from that father. But the point is this, we have on hand a certain number of unmarried ladies, and we have to make a decision. Do we say, oh okay, you're on your own? Do we force them into further degradation, do we force them into prostitution? Do we force them to live with someone else who abuses them? Do we put them in a position where they are physically or mentally damaged that then the state must spend not thousands, but tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands, or do we try to help and assist them and bring them to some kind of dignity so that they can see why they should bring that baby to term. I've been campaigning in this state for more than 30 years. I can tell you how you can guarantee, how you can guarantee to be re-elected and