

SENATOR BROMM: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Let me make a couple of comments, and then I'd like to ask Senator Lindsay a couple questions, if he would yield to that. What we're doing here is moving the child support setting responsibility guideline...for setting guidelines from the judicial branch to the legislative branch. Now that is not any small decision, it is not a decision that we should not spend a good deal of time deliberating on. I, for one, do have great concerns about making this a political decision. I would hope the child support guidelines, which is what they are supposed to be, our guidelines will be based on as much statistical and factual and economical information as possible and not necessarily made in quite the political climate that it would have to be done in this body. You know, I think we set up the standards for how divorces occur and that kind of thing, but we let the judicial branch work on the specifics of property settlement, child support, and those kinds of things. Now what we're doing is we're saying we're going to go ahead and grab this responsibility and put it in the Legislature. And, Senator Lindsay, if you would kindly yield to a couple questions.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Yes.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR BROMM: I know that the noncustodial parents are very unhappy with the guidelines that were implemented January 1 of '96, and I understand that. But what would you, if we based that decision on economic and statistical data, what would you expect to be different about the legislative body doing this than the Supreme Court Administrator's Office? I guess, you looking for a different result, or what?

SENATOR LINDSAY: I've talked with an economics professor at the University of Nebraska Lincoln who has indicated that the guidelines simply don't reflect what's the factual aspects that you're talking about, because it goes back to how the...as you know, the Supreme Court is simply not set up for public input. The idea of having public meetings, where they can sit for hours and hours and listen to things, the way our committees can, they...that's simply not a...a problem. So they're not getting the information, that's where the concern is.