

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office

May 19, 1999

LB 637A

amendment on this. I think we would be flirting with disaster. And I understand the frustration and I, you know, there's going to be more money that's going to be spent and a lot of it's going to be in Douglas County as they try to get on the JUSTICE system. Thank you, and I'll relinquish the balance of my time.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bohlke. Senator Brown, on the Baker amendment.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, let me repeat, if the General Fund money is not there, the federal fund money is matching to the General Fund, it goes away. There will be no money there for the computer aspect, which is the most significant piece that the feds are going to be looking at in terms of our intent, besides the passage of the legislation. So we will be jeopardizing not only this...this money, not...but we're jeopardizing everything if you adopt the Baker amendment. Plus, you're making a statement that...that you have no intention of it moving forward. Senator Bohlke talked about N-FOCUS, JUSTICE, and CHARTS, and the relationship. N-FOCUS is a mainframe system. It has cost us a lot of money. The only relationship to CHARTS that N-FOCUS has is that it notifies CHARTS when somebody is on welfare...is receiving welfare, so that the...any child support is collected goes to offset some of those welfare payments. That's...this is about welfare reform. The JUSTICE piece is a hardware system for all courts to...to communicate. They are using it as a mechanism to communicate this aspect of child support, but it is much more broad-based than just dealing with the child support piece. CHARTS is a PC-based system and it's the program for maintaining the records that are necessary for us to increase child support collections and for us to report to the feds and just to maintain that whole system. It is PC-based. Some of the PCs that they have are old, some of...and it's not necessarily that the programming is a problem. It's just that it needs to operate more quickly. One of the things that...the complaints is that it needs...needs...you need to be able to process these cases more quickly. So I strongly oppose the Baker amendment, but I mostly want you to remember that if you adopt the Baker amendment you're losing the whole amount of money that has to do with the computerization piece, the entire amount of money. The federal money will not be there. There will be zero money for this