

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

April 5, 2000

LB 972

accountability, and I understand that, the Treasurer indicated that he wanted to have the SDU, the State Disbursement Unit..

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BOURNE: ...and I support that, he should have it. We can change the accountability so that the first sentence says the State Treasurer or Title IV-D designee shall establish a Customer Service Unit, so that the accountability could go to the Treasurer, if that's a concern. Again, my goal here is not to slow up the process, to provide a cumbersome system so that the children or the custodial moms or dads don't get their checks. My goal is to, if we need to set up a call center and, you know, we can show with technology the way it is today it can be located in a remote spot, does not have to be in the same building, that's pretty much the essence of it. I fail to see how this is going to be inefficient or not provide the required accountability.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bourne. On the Bourne amendment, Senator Brashear.

SENATOR BRASHEAR: Mr. President and members of the body, I, when one sits and reflects over the totality of this whole process, we have all kinds of tensions. We all know that there was much concern and trepidation on this floor among us all when this mandate or directive, whatever you want to call it, came from the federal government. We've worked through all of that. I think that that whole process of sometimes having to go against some of your instincts or preferences or best thoughts and disrupt that which you believe maybe is working to that which you're not certain will create a lot of tensions and a lot of struggles. But I...I think it ultimately comes down to, Senator Bourne is obviously sincerely convicted about his amendment, and it comes down to whether we should or we shouldn't, and I say we should not. The fact of the matter is that what we are concerned here is making...dealing with what we have before us and making it work, and making it work for the benefit, first, of the children who are involved and, second, for those parents, be they divorced or separated or whatever, who already have enough tension, turmoil and otherwise in their life. And I really believe we've had enough difficulty in