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April 5, 2004 LB 391

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...the staff. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Chambers and Senator Hartnett. Senator Erdman, there are no further lights on. You're recognized to close on AM3496, AM3496, an amendment to the committee amendments, AM3247, to LB 391.

SENATOR ERDMAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the Legislature, in case you had forgotten, AM3496 is a technical amendment, technical in nature, to clarify that the changes we're making in the area of child support do not apply retroactively; do not apply to those existing decrees that are in order right now. It is intended to clarify that because that is actually the intent of both the legislation and myself. And so we're offering this amendment to ensure that individuals are aware that this is not applied to any existing decrees. We are also going to be...and I would encourage your adoption. After the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendment, there will probably be a request for a division. There are opportunities that could probably earn this year. The question is going to be whether or not we as a body want to do that because, as I said earlier, there were...there are problems in the state of Nebraska with the existing law. And ironically, it seems like we are more concerned about the collateral damage, if you will, about making a change like this than we are other issues, such as ones that Senator Hartnett and others have presented before this body, maybe in the area of taxation or others. So I think it's appropriate for us to have those questions. Unfortunately, it doesn't appear that there's a willingness of the body to ask those questions. I know that Senator Chambers is going to ask for a division, and I think that that's appropriate. It's my hope that we can come up with an agreement or a middle ground, if you will, that we can move forward with something that I think is a first step and to continue to address this issue. Because the problems aren't going to go away, colleagues. The problems are not going to go away. Now, it just might be the fact that I'm younger and I understand that most of the people that I've talked to, or a lot of the people that I've talked to in that younger bracket, have brought up ideas, either from the problems they had transferring