

March 11, 1974

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, can you close your argument in one minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, I can't, Mr. President, but I will. I want to suggest this. I'm going to say the system we have today does not work. It obviously does not work. Senator Fellman has introduced and I've been voting for the bill LB1015, a bill which will help make the system work. I suggest that Senator Kelly's bill LB953, my two bills LB961 and LB957 will also help make the system work. I suggest that if they do not, if there are problems and we've been told they're unconstitutional, that's not our problem to decide. Our problem is to decide this, are we taking care of the children? We know we are not. Are we worried about whether we will look foolish or not? I'm not worried about whether I look foolish in this area. Senator Proud has called me the foolish several times over the past four years, part of the time he's right. But the problem is, is are we going to get the job done insofar as the children are concerned? I suggest from the mail I receive and the telephone calls I have received indicate that we are striking at a tender, sensitive spot. I suggest that you will receive response, if this bill becomes law. Before it can go to court and again, I want to reiterate for Senator Fellman's benefit, the argument which I made last week. I am still waiting for the first guy to come before a judge in this State of Nebraska and say, the Motor Vehicles Department took or suspended my license so I can't carouse around because I didn't pay my child support. I think I know the judges of this state well enough to know what's going to happen. I think he's going to say, mister, start paying.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit, you'll have to yield the floor. I reserve the right for you to rebutt anything that happens on here but you've spoken your ten minutes which is allowed under the rules of the Legislature. The Chair now recognizes Senator Proud. Speaker Proud.

SPEAKER PROUD: Well, Mr. President, I'd like to ask Senator Fellman a question. I'm not sure whose side I'm on, I think I favor Senator Schmit but we've got to be careful about this.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fellman, do you yield to a question?

SPEAKER PROUD: As I understand, Senator, the thing you're objecting to is the possible yanking of the drivers license for somebody who doesn't support his or her kid, is that correct?

SENATOR FELLMAN: No, no, the way you're saying that puts me exactly the opposite of where I have stood since we began hearings on this question last summer. I would like to see heavier sanctions than Senator Schmit is proposing but I think this one is asinine.

SENATOR PROUD: But I'm not trying to debate you. I'm really am asking for information. This does concern the taking away of a drivers license under certain conditions, is that correct?

SENATOR FELLMAN: Yes.

SENATOR PROUD: That is the point involved? Now you said and I respect your opinion because I'm sure you're in and out of