

March 11, 1974

PRESIDENT: Senator Fellman, do you care to respond?

SENATOR FELLMAN: Is that...your question is why the county attorney can't do this? He can't. The county attorney can bring support...non-support charges right now if he wants to. It's...the county board could direct him to. In some counties they do. These are considered cases nobody likes to fiddle with and I...it's kinda like if you've got a cold, you can't cure it, but if you've got pneumonia, you can. You walk into a county attorney's office, the average woman, and says her husband, her former husband is behind a month of two, nothing happens. He says that's not bad enough, come back when he's six months or twelve months behind.

SENATOR SYAS: Why can't this Legislature make it mandatory that we have uniformity all over the state and these county attorneys be forced to do it.

SENATOR FELLMAN: You can, Senator, I would support that. I'm...I am as much for tightening up this law as anybody here. This is just the wrong way to do it.

PRESIDENT: All right, the Chair recognizes Senator Kelly. Senator Schmit, you're next, stand by.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President and colleagues. A hypothetical answer to the hypothetical question offered by the senator from Lincoln. Is that the man that's riding the bus spent his car money on the kids so that's the reason he's riding the bus. We who are interested in this problem are more than willing to accept the rational, well-thought out excellent program that the Judiciary Committee gave us. We know that they're going to do a lot of good with their approach. But for one who's in favor of this and interested in this thing, I cannot understand why we can't go right ahead with some other ideas. All right, maybe they're not the best ideas in the world but they're ideas, they're practical ideas. Their time has come. We in this Legislature and the people on the street want to collect this child support money that's in arrears. I believe that the people that have told me there are not sufficient tools in the statutes for them to get at this problem, let's give them tools. Let's give them every tool we can think of and one tool that we very definitely need that's come out on this floor again is statistics. How much has been assessed for child support. How much has been paid and how much hasn't been paid. Now, this may be a little bit complicated. It may be a little bit hard to do but it should be done. We had an opportunity to do this and passed it by. All right, let's pass that opportunity by. Well, let's don't pass by these other practical opportunities, let's take and put them on the statute books and get that child support money in.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I'm glad the children have so many friends in this Body. The only thing that concerns me is Senator Fellman has indicated....

(End of Belt #6A)