

March 11, 1974

(Begin Belt 7A)

the present law does provide adequately providing that the attorneys and the court enforce the provisions of the law. The facts as have been pointed out by Senator Fred Carstens, no attorney likes this type of a case. It's degrading, it's demoralizing, it dehumanizing, it's everything they said it is. What do they think it is to the ex-wife? Who can't pay her electric bill, who can't pay her gas bill, I know instances of women who most of you know who have had their gas shut off. Who have had their electric bill shut off. Who can't drive their automobile because they do not have the money that is due to their children because they need to spend the money on food, on clothing and shelter. And so noone says, how does that ex-wife get to work, she sure as hell goes to work or if she didn't, they'd all starve. She rides the bus, she catches a ride, she does any other thing to get to work because the mother's instinct for the protection of her children is paramount. And I defend those women and I agree that in some cases there may be some who do not have this instinct. Now, Senator Marsh has said, what about the gentleman who rides the bus and the one who drives? Well, if Senator Marsh and I both lost our drivers licenses, it would be no great hardship to Senator Marsh because she can ride the bus to the Legislature. If I lost my drivers license and had to hitchhike 62 miles every day, it's going to be terribly demoralizing to me, you can be sure of that. That's nothing, there's no equity there either, you see. It's very simple for one to get here, it's very hard for me but I accept that responsibility. Now, the point I want to bring out is that, that if the provisions in Senator Fellman's bill LB1015 and the Judiciary Committee are brought into play and garnishment is in effect, first of all, hopefully those individuals who have jobs, who will not fall further behind, now....the most important part of this bill is that. The clerks of the court shall examine the records and determine arrearages. We don't have those records now. We have stopped those records in every case in many different counties, we find them impossible to determine. That's the most important part of this bill. The determination of arrearages. Let us find out how much money is owed. Now, I can assure you that the bank can tell you any day, any day how much money you owe the bank, insurance companies can tell you how much money you owe them, utility companies can tell you how much is owed to them. But isn't it strange that in a society as sophisticated as ours and society as dedicated to human needs as we all pretend to be and a society which looks to the east and waits for the federal government to solve the problem, we can't even answer a simple question how many dollars are owed the children in Lancaster County by the rascals who refuse to pay? I say refuse to pay and I mean it because no...no individual ever got behind \$5,000 at a time. He got behind \$100, \$150, \$200, at a time. Senator Kelly, Senator Duis, several other senators here, who are airplane pilots, I want to call upon their...their....their....remembrance of thesomething which a fellow told me a long time ago. He said nothing ever happens suddenly in an airplane, you only discover it suddenly. Well, these fellows who are \$5,000 or \$1,000 in arrearages didn't get that way suddenly. It was just discovered suddenly. As it has been said, when they're a month or two behind, no attorney's going to take the case. The county attorney says we can't be bothered by that. I've got too many other things to worry about. And rightly so. Rightly so. When you get to be \$5,000 behind, they say well,