

SENATOR SCHMIT: Is that applicable now based upon the adoption of the committee amendments? I am not sure that that is a correct amendment now, Mr. Clerk. Well, Mr. President, I will speak to the amendment. I will check it out later. I think that...I just want to say this, I have asked to introduce this amendment, and I have introduced this amendment because I believe it is important. It is extremely important that we call attention to what we have done with LB 7. I would have to say that I am terribly disappointed upon the reading of the press reports of that action on that bill yesterday. If you would read the paper, you would think that the \$200,000 we are talking about in the area of aid to children was a dominant portion of the bill. The dominant portion of the bill by far is the 10 percent collection fee which is being assessed by the federal government against the child support collection. Mr. Tesar, the Clerk of the court in Douglas County, was here this morning along with a gentleman from the County Attorney's office. We discussed at great length the amount of child support that is outstanding and that has been collected in Douglas County. It is an extremely serious problem for Douglas County. They have collected in the last month I believe about a million dollars. Now they did that with the help of \$180,000 of federal funds, but at the present time, as I pointed out yesterday, no one knows in the federal government whether this 10 percent collection fee is applicable against all child support collected, against the ADC cases or against only those portions which have been under a special category where the ex-wife signs a request for assistance. Now let's just assume for the record that the federal government decides they are going to collect the 10 percent from the total amount. And Mr. Tesar collected about a million dollars last month. That means that a \$100,000 of that might go back to the federal government. It means that if \$12 million is collected, I believe he said last year, Douglas County could well end up paying back to the state and eventually to the federal government \$1,200,000 to maintain that \$180,000 which you have collected in assistance from Legal Services. Now if they really get on the ball and collect \$30 or \$40 or \$50 million, as much as \$5 million may go back to the federal government out of the coffers of Douglas County away from the children who are entitled to it. Now there is an interesting concept in the child support law. I think that very few people here understand that child support is assessed not upon the needs of the children, it is assessed upon the ability of the ex-husband to pay. If you reduce the amount of money that is paid to the mother by 10 percent, does that mean that we have said that the ex-husband is unable to pay the greater amount?