

the things you were taught as a child, not bad, it creates difficulty. I could sit in this Legislature this session and let a lot of the stuff just slide through here as others have chosen to do. I could put my name on a bill that is brought to me by a group who says it's a great bill and, without analyzing it, sign it because I agree in principle with what they're talking about. Then when the bill comes up and the defects are shown, hide behind the fact that my name is on it and say, well, I've committed myself and I've got to stick. You commit yourself to that which you understand. Even in the mercenary marketplace a contract does not come into existence until there can be shown to have been a meeting of the minds. If I say one thing and you understand it to mean another and we sign an agreement and you can establish that our minds did not meet at that point, there is no contract. If people, because of a generalized statement regarding this bill, said they were for it and then as we discuss it other factors come into play and take a higher profile, those things should be given consideration. I'm looking at the fine language that Senator Barrett made reference to. And if you insist on passing this bill, I'm going to at least try to make it more honest. Listen to this, on page 2, starting in line 16. "The Legislature further recognizes that child abuse and neglect is a problem that should be approached through prevention efforts and that," get this word, "society". Society, that means everybody. You're talking about a societal problem. I see in line 20, going on with this fine language, talking about social costs, again dealing with the idea of the collective totality of the people in this state. Then here is the real kicker and I think it's an outright falsification of the situation. Lines 21 through 24, and those who signed this bill should be ashamed of themselves, "It is the expressed intent of this act to make the prevention of child abuse and neglect a priority of this state." And you're selecting two classes of people to pay for it. It's a priority of this state? And what do we mean by the word "state"? I'm going to listen the rest of this session to the kind of things that are talked about here, the state and society are concerned about this problem. Then the burden ought to be borne by all of society. Every time I go in the store and buy something that is not food, they take a tax from me. If I get around to buying a new car, they are going to take a substantial tax from me. The little income that I make they take a tax from and I don't mind part of that being used to carry out the purposes of