

because it has the power? A merciful person is one who does not do everything he or she has the power to do if a mitigating circumstance intervenes. Those who simply use all of the naked power they have the right or the means to exert against somebody else are called tyrants, are called cruel. Cruelty can take a form other than physical abuse. In this bill I'm sure they're talking about psychological things that can be done to children, so while we're talking about these abstract, philosophical principles of abuse, the Legislature itself is abusing certain classes of people. They say that those who were abused as children become abusers as parents. So maybe while talking about abuse the Legislature is compelled to abuse people. I don't understand. I hope you will support this amendment, and if the bill cannot get enough support to get a general fund appropriation, then Nebraska is not ready for this and we were told a lie when those people put in this bill that it is the expressed intent of this act to make the prevention of child abuse and neglect a priority of this state. That is a lie. It is not a priority of this state. It is not a priority of this Legislature. Does this Legislature have the power to make appropriations? Maybe I need to ask that question to somebody. Senator Higgins...oh, Senator Cal Carsten is there. He has dealt on money matters. Senator Carsten, I know your Committee of Revenue likes to raise money, but does this Legislature have the power to make appropriations to fund programs that it believes in?

SENATOR CARSTEN: Yes, sir, Senator Chambers, it does if the program has been established.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if the program has merit and it's a priority program of the state, should the state be willing to make an appropriation for what it has stated in statute is a priority? Should it make an appropriation?

SENATOR CARSTEN: It is assumed that it would and I would guess it should, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And if it's not going to make an appropriation, should it at least strike this misleading language about this program being a priority of the state?

SENATOR CARSTEN: I suspect that it should as some of our other things that we have been supporting should be stricken also.