

Legislature, I believe that the Beutler and the Lynch amendment is to impose an additional cost on people who are in litigation, who use the court system to affect a divorce. Am I correct on that, Senator Lynch? Senator Lynch says he thinks so. Am I correct on that, Senator Beutler, that the purpose of the amendment is to impose an additional cost on people who use the court system to affect a divorce?

SENATOR BEUTLER: The purpose of the amendment is to raise money for child abuse.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: That is the purpose.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And the effect is to do as you suggested.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: The effect of the amendment is to increase court costs, is that correct, only to those people who get divorced, is that correct? Is that right?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Okay. This is a very bad amendment. A lot of folk have talked about how good this amendment is but what this amendment now does is it now says that for the first time ever that if one decides to seek the services of our court system on a particular kind of transaction, the person has got to pay an additional price for that kind of a transaction. Thus if one decides to get a divorce, then one has got to pay more money to the court system, in effect, to get the divorce. Now you and I...our Constitution specifically says the court shall be open to all and it says justice shall be neither delayed nor denied. Our Constitution says that, and when you and I in a moment of anguish over a bill that has got some problems with it decide that well we had better add a transactional cost in using the court system for one kind of case, we are starting a precedent which will then allow us, in effect, to impose court costs to our liking for virtually any kind of case that comes down the pike. Thus we can say to collection agencies, well, you know, when you use the court system to try to collect debts, we are going to charge you an additional \$15 extra because you are using the court system to try to collect debt because we need to be able to put that money into the welfare fund because an awful lot of debtors are on poor relief. That is a bad policy. That is a bad policy. What we want in the main for our court costs