

SENATOR HOAGLAND: The hour is getting late, colleagues. Let me just briefly urge you to oppose Senator Chambers' amendment. Let me say, first of all, that Senator Higgins is right on. She is right on in what she said in this speech, and she is right on in what she said earlier. The magnitude of the child support collection problem in the State of Nebraska is overwhelming. We are talking tens of millions of dollars of uncollected and up to this point uncollectible child support. LB 600, by way of federal mandate, is intended to correct that. Now Senator Schmit is also right on in what he said earlier about the terrible problems we are having in many counties around the state of getting any kind of responsiveness, any kind of record-keeping system that enables us to do the job. Now Section...the section that Senator Chambers would strike, providing for a statewide automated record-keeping system, is very important to the bill. It is something we need to have. I've been corrected since my earlier talk. We are entitled to 90-10 federal funding, 90 percent federal funding to set up a statewide automated computer system to expedite the collection of child support funds. In order for the bill to work, in order to satisfy the federal guidelines we need to get a statewide computerized system going. It will be paid 90 percent out of federal funds. There is no reason to do it, it is an important part of this bill. It is true, it could be used for other purposes later, but that is beside the point. The point is we need it to make LB 600 work, and we need to have LB 600 pass this year if we are to be successful in getting this complex system up and running by October 1, 1986 when the extremely harsh penalties will be imposed.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, did you wish to speak?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, the bill was advanced just a few days ago, so it came out here. But I mean when it first came to the Legislature it was dumped on the Legislature. There had been some work in child support done before by various staff members, and there was some knowledge of the child support system because Senator Schmit has perennially brought in bills dealing with it. But I'm going to ask Senator Higgins a question. Senator Higgins, you strongly support what they tell you is the idea behind this bill, so I'm going to ask my question to you based on the idea that you have being