

the question because nobody was on at that time, so I'll let her call the question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: All right. Senator Schmit has put his light on too. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I will speak just briefly. I think, Senator Chambers, you are far too optimistic to give one additional month, if you think that is going to do much good. I think I could almost recite the statutes referencing child support by heart, having been involved in the drafting and the passage of most of them in the past 10 or 15 years. But sometimes I believe that when you go to the statute books on child support and you open the book it must be nothing but blank pages, totally blank, absolutely not a word in there. You know why? Because each individual court, each individual judge, each individual clerk of the court runs the office just exactly as they darn well please. Makes no difference. Supposed to access interest. No interest is collected. Supposed to keep a record of the interest. No record is kept. Supposed to have a monthly report of delinquencies. No monthly report of delinquencies. Supposed to provide for automatic prosecution by the county attorney. Maybe yes, maybe no, whatever is convenient. If the county attorney doesn't prosecute, the delinquent parent is supposed to pay the cost of prosecution. Do you think it happens? Yes, no, probably not, just as you darn well please. Now we think we are a Legislature. We call ourselves a lawmaking body. We enact into law statute after statute in which we take great amounts of pride. We go back home and we tell our constituency we did this and all is going to be right with the world. The Judiciary Committee, over the last 17 years, has worked like slaves to put out good legislation in this area. I worked with many different chairmen. I really believe that they've tried hard. But do you know what? For all that we have done there \$150 million, by Senator Hoagland's account, of uncollected child support in Douglas County. And God only knows how much of it is left in the rest of the state. Senator Hoagland has said, in this little handout, that in many areas they do not have the facilities to keep the records to know what to do. Well, I can tell you something, in many of those rural counties, Senator Chambers, I can take a piece of charcoal and keep, on a barn door, the record of delinquent child support because there aren't a half a dozen or a dozen. But do they