

PRESIDENT: Senator Miller. Can we have order in the Chamber, please. (Gavel.)

SENATOR MILLER: The technicalities of this bill are extremely important, as we know, but I hope that we don't miss the forest by looking at the trees and maybe somebody can answer these questions and maybe they can't. I am going to address them to Senator Beutler if he would be able to answer them. I think the staff probably would be able if he didn't specifically have them. Do you know the total amount of monies that are collected in child support and those percentages, and the percentage of those monies that are not paid?

SENATOR BEUTLER: I will get those for you right away and I will recite some to you because I know that we had those figures last year and I assume they have been updated. So I can recite those for you. Just give me a few minutes. It is a miserable record though.

SENATOR MILLER: They are significant. The nonpayment is significant and I think more than the four million that this state might lose from the federal government by not complying with their rules is minuscule when you compare that to the total number of programs that this state has to support because fathers are not supporting. And I would recommend the adoption of these committee amendments and maybe they will need some fine tuning but I wouldn't want to lose something that is extremely important because of some technicalities. I think we need to work the technicalities out.

PRESIDENT: Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and members of the body, I do just want to thank Senator Beutler for his assistance in this on this particular committee and advancing the bill on behalf of all of us because if it would not have been advanced, I am afraid we would not have had a chance to talk about it. So thank you on behalf of all of us. And again I urge the adoption of the committee amendments and the advancement of the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the