

that they have in place within their department, and I think that we are asking them to shackle themselves further in an attempt to address this problem of child support collection. Now I know where Senator Chambers is coming from and he has a perfect right on this, and I don't know whether it is going to increase child support collection but I think we have to make an attempt. I know that in my two counties the use of the computers and the use of some of this has increased child support collection in one county where it has not in another. So with a small example in my district, I think it can work but I do think the attorneys should be kept in the Social Services Department where they will be able to function in concurrence with the philosophies and the rules and regulations that the Social Services Department is working with all the time. So I rise to support Senator Higgins and I hope you will also.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I think we have to get some things in perspective. First of all, there is the impression given out that the Social Services program is something of long standing, many years, it has been there for a long time. That is not true. Their pilot programs they have just begun, and when you talk about their being successful, yes, it is true. I think that they are more successful and that is because they have taken over for county attorneys who were doing nothing, but when I asked Gina Dunning, are these attorneys good you have out there? She said two of them didn't know what they were doing and the third one does, but they are learning now. I don't call that a very successful program when two-thirds of your personnel didn't know what they were doing. I suggest to you that they are going to be more professional, that they are going to be better managed, that they are going to have a better line, a better handle on what they are doing and where they should be going and how to get it done if they are under some professional leadership and some professional management. And I think that is what the Attorney General's Office would do for you. In this state we have had the philosophy that the Attorney General's Office is basically the entity that we are going to try to use to prosecute the things that we need to have prosecuted. And now we are beginning to splinter off from this philosophy and I think that this particular area represents a rather major departure from that philosophy.