

Now we are going to have a group of attorneys over in a department that is going to get bigger and bigger and they are going to be separate and apart from any overall management philosophy. The people, the pilot programs that are in place will be kept in place by the Attorney General's Office. When we set about doing this, I didn't just do it on my own. I went to the Attorney General and I said, is this something that you believe to be properly your function, and would you be interested in doing it if we said that you should do it? And he said, sure, he is very interested in child support. I think any of you that know Bob Spire know that if you give him a job to do, it is going to be well done. I cannot imagine any unit or anybody in this state that could handle this kind of matter or be more philosophically inclined to do well in this sort of matter than Bob Spire, and I don't understand why it is that people are afraid of giving him that job. It is going to be well done. It is going to be very well done, and this has nothing to do with the county attorneys. This has nothing to do with local versus state control because under either amendment the county attorneys retain the prerogative. This is a question of which state agency should be involved, that is the question. I think I have said everything that I had to say but I would reiterate the argument also, the part of getting people to pay is presenting them with an authority figure and I ask you in the past how successful has Social Services been getting people to pay? They don't have the punch. They don't have the same kind of authority and image in the public mind as the Attorney General does and I think again you are going to get better performance out of a prosecutory unit that is associated with the Attorney General's Office. Somebody calls you on the phone and says this is the Attorney General's Office. That is going to mean something, I think. And those, basically, are the arguments that I would make to you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Marsh, please.

SENATOR MARSH: I move the previous question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.