

1 agree to support wives and children were embodied in
2 decrees.

3 The courts ruled that the court could not
4 enforce these decrees because this was a contract, even
5 though embodied in a decree; and therefore you were put-
6 ting a man in jail for failure to pay his debt. So that
7 in order to clarify the situation and make it
8 clear the obligation to support the wife and children
9 was not a debt within the concept of the constitutional
10 protection, this language was adopted to clarify that
11 point. I believe it was by amendment back in 1950.

12 THE CHAIRMAN: Delegate Willoner.

13 DELEGATE WILLONER: Mr. Chairman, as one member
14 of the committee -- and I remember committee discussions
15 on this -- I don't like taking something out if we don't
16 know exactly what we are doing. I don't want to be
17 imprisoned for debt in this State, and I would object
18 to the committee agreeing this be removed.

19 It seems to me that that was the problem we had
20 when we discussed it in the committee. As far as we are
21 concerned, the legislature could imprison for debt --