

May 31, 1995

LB 89, 89A, 241, 311, 326, 326A, 390, 429
524, 524A, 535, 593, 593A, 616, 712, 887

Communication from the Governor to the Clerk. (Re: signing of LB 524, LB 524A, LB 535, LB 593, LB 593A, LB 616, LB 326, LB 89, LB 89A, LB 311, LB 390, LB 429, LB 241 and LB 887.) I have a veto message. (Read message regarding LB 326A.) (See pages 2682-83 of the Legislative Journal.)

Mr. President, Senator Chambers would move to return LB 712 to Select File for a specific amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, we have battled on this bill and in its present form, I think that it shows a crass disregard for the sensibilities of a woman who may, during a period of great distress and duress, give up a child for adoption. Despite every effort that I made to reach an accord with the sponsors of this bill, they were totally unwilling to budge on the question. They believe that once the woman makes this decision it should be irrevocable, and that's why I'm offering this amendment, which I think they would like, because their attitude is based on wanting to make babies available to these wealthy people, these elitists who want, in my mind, to steal women's children. It starts on page 1657 of the Journal. We would insert the following new sections. Any licensed adoption agency which certifies by affidavit filed with the Department of Social Services that it has prospective customers in the top ten percentile income bracket who desire to adopt a newborn child shall make written application at the time of filing its affidavit to obtain the newborn child of any unmarried woman. One, having less than a twelfth grade education. Two, whose income is below the poverty level established by the federal government, or, three, whose intelligence quotient is no higher than 72. The department shall file copies of all affidavits and applications with each hospital and health care provider in the state who may tend or provide care or services to a pregnant woman. The newborn child of a mother described in Section 30 of this act shall be handed over to the adoption agency whose affidavit and application appear highest on the list of adoption agencies maintained by the department, a copy of which has been provided to the hospital or health care provider. Should a multiple birth occur, the mother may be permitted to keep one of her babies unless, in the sole discretion of the department, all of the babies should be taken. Whenever a multiple birth is indicated the hospital or health care provider shall immediately notify