

May 31, 1995

LB 712

LR 271

mention to Senator Chambers that this is one of the issues, his issue, that is slated for an interim study by the Health and Human Services Committee and I would invite his participation in that study. If the law of Nebraska should be changed on that question of the relinquishment, then that should be the subject of legislation in the next session. But I think that we have fully and fairly considered this bill and I would, in the strongest and most sincere manner possible, urge that you reject Senator Chambers' amendment and refuse to return this bill to Select File for amendment.

**SPEAKER WITHEM:** Thank you, Senator Matzke. Senator Wesely.

**SENATOR WESELY:** Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members, I...hmmm, well, let me begin by saying this. I will follow up on Senator Matzke's comments about the study on the issue. Senator Chambers, I know, is disappointed that we have not agreed to an amendment earlier on Select File on this that would have addressed his concern. And the case that came up at Omaha, I want to publicly acknowledge that that was disturbing to me as well of a low IQ young woman who did not perhaps fully understand the relinquishment of her child and later was unable to have that reconsidered and the child returned to her. So I begin by acknowledging the case that has brought this to Senator Chambers and my and others' attention is one worth looking at further and I pledge to Senator Chambers and to this Legislature that we will study the issue and will give it every consideration. And that sounds so hollow so I'm trying to think of how to make it stronger than that. I am very interested in the topic. I acknowledge to Senator...(laughter), Senator Chambers that (laughter) that Senator...everybody is all right, that's good, no injuries, but, Senator Chambers, that we do have...that we take the issue seriously and I, in fact, was quite interested in trying to pursue it. The problem we got into was having not had the issue before the committee or the Legislature and then certainly about how to proceed. That was...that was the cautionary note that Senator Matzke was referring to. So I am very interested in pursuing that. So LR 271, which is the committee's study resolution, includes, and I will quote from it, whether as part of the study, "whether there should be a period of time for a parent to change their mind when a child is relinquished for adoption." That very specific topic is, I think, very specifically the concern that Senator Chambers has. It's a concern that I have. It makes sense to look at it and I'm willing to do so. The overall issue