

April 9, 1973

adoption in Nebraska were made most difficult, namely the Vietnamese children and I'll let, I'll let Senator Cavanaugh go into that a little more in depth. However, the amendment merely clarified how such adoption could be taken care of by stating that when an order or decree of adoption was entered by a court in any foreign country, a copy of that order or decree which would be duly certified and translated into English by a representative of the United States Department of State, and then it goes on to say or in the absence of any such representative so certified and translated by the United States Department of State may be filed with the petition for adoption and shall operate in lieu of a consent. That is the means by which this could be done. The bill itself, the way it was originally set up, was not operative, we could not make it work the way it was originally proposed and the, Mr. Warnholz, the attorney for the Welfare Department came down and suggested that this kind of amendment would get the job done. So the committee went along with this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion now of the committee amendments to LB 436? Any discussion? Question is, shall the committee amendments be adopted? All those in favor please say aye, those opposed say no. The ayes have it, so ordered, the amendments are adopted. Back to you, Senator Cavanaugh.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, members of the body, I move LB 436 be advanced to E & R Initial. I think Senator Luedtke basically explained the substance of this bill. It arose out of a situation of several people contacting Senator Stahmer and then subsequently myself regarding their situation in foreign adoptions, the State of Nebraska had no procedure for recognizing or approving or providing for adoptions of foreign children and this provides that procedure. I think it's a very necessary thing. In the absence of this legislation, these people who have adopted foreign children in a foreign court will, would never know whether their children obtained or occupied the same status as any other adopted child.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer, did you wish to be heard on this bill?

SENATOR STAHMER: Yes, Mr. President, members of the body, I'd like to support Senator Cavanaugh on this bill and with the committee amendments I think it's a very good piece of legislation worthwhile. There were a number of parents who have adopted children in the past and had some legal difficulties and they did work with the Welfare Department and some of the minor problems they were having at the time were straightened out but they all felt, both the Welfare people and the parents interested in these adoptions that this would be beneficial legislation and I commend Senator Cavanaugh for introducing this measure and I would certainly hope you give it a favorable vote.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the body, a question of Senator Cavanaugh.

PRESIDENT: Senator Cavanaugh, will you yield?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Yes.

SENATOR KELLY: Colorado and Kansas, are they foreign states?

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: No, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Does this have any, does this help any in the adoption in between states?