

March 14, 1979

LB 19

House is the adoption of the Johnson amendments to LB 19. All those in favor of the motion vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on the Johnson amendments to LB 19. Have you all voted? The Clerk will record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and the amendments are adopted. Now, Senator Cope, do you wish to be recognized on the bill as a whole?

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I support LB 19. I introduced the interim study resolution on this child custody act. It had a very good hearing, it had several very good hearings across the state. This was brought to me by Arlyss Torrey, then Director of the Welfare Department in Buffalo County. Her first concern and of course everyone here is of the child. Too many times it isn't the love of a child that has to do with the child snatching. It is spite, spite between the father and the mother, and that is bad. It is bad for the child, but secondly, and a point that Mrs. Torrey brought out very clearly is the cost to the counties in cases where this is involved. As I remember the case that she brought to me, it cost Buffalo County about \$1800 before they were finished with this particular child custody act that has to do with California and by the time the parents were brought back and forth, one time in jail as I remember, it was that additional cost, and if you multiply that by the number of child snatching cases, it can come to a very substantive amount. If we pass this child custody law, LB 19, it certainly isn't going to do away with all of it but it will lessen it I believe, and remember, of course, the first reason is for the good of the child. So I would ask you to support LB 19.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I believe that I support this bill but I would like to ask Senator Newell a question if he will yield.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes, okay, I see that Felix White, the Director of Indian Affairs, appeared against this bill. Do you recall what his opposition to it was?

SENATOR NEWELL: I do, but only from hearsay. I was not in