

March 14, 1979

LB 19

LB 19. There are other areas still to be addressed and can be addressed as time passes and as future Legislatures convene. The area simply are these, California has established a parent locator service which assists parents whose child has been snatched in finding the whereabouts of the other parent who has wrongfully taken the child. I would suggest that at a later time Nebraska establish a parent locator service. Secondly, California has provided for county attorney assistance in the enforcement of custody decrees. -I would suggest that at a later date, Nebraska the same. But if we adopt LB 19, and then later on establish the parent locator service and then provide county attorneys enforcement powers in the area, we will have gone a long way to meliorating a plight of children and parents whose children are snatched.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you wish to close?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, Mr. President. The bill, LB 19, that is presently before you does in fact not have the parent locator service that Senator Johnson and Senator DeCamp suggested might be beneficial. The reason I would like to speak to this aspect for a moment or two because I think it is of some importance why the decision was made not to include this parent locator assistance and getting the county attorneys that right to be active. First of all, let me say that, one, that a parent locator service would in fact add a fiscal note of some magnitude to this bill and the question that I am not sure of, in fact I have not been convinced, is that the fiscal note that would be attached to this bill with that parent locator service would be of substantive value in terms of helping these parents regain their children. And the reason I say that is this, right now the bill allows us to plug into the national crime, what is that called, John? Anyway, it is a service where we can find people. Now a fiscal note that would add the parent locator service is of some questionable value in a state like Nebraska. In California which has adopted this provision, it seems to be working out pretty well, but you remember that California is a very large state and that most of their problems are intrastate or interstate and not out state as most Nebraska situations would be. And so for that reason we have decided not to add these provisions and I think that when they do come about, if there are some proposals to bring them up later on, that they really have to be looked at hard by this body as to determination of whether or not they are cost efficient and whether they provide the benefits in a ratio to the cost that would warrant including such a system. For that reason