

January 16, 1980

LB 483

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Vickers in his remarks just addressed one of the difficulties and the problems that I see in LB 483. This was brought to my attention by a constituent who has considerable concerns with some of the provisions and I would like to share those with the body and also discuss this with Senator Newell. As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I did have an opportunity to attend the hearings, both on 483 and also the legislative resolution that was studied during the interim, and I think that I would be fair in my assessment in saying that the reason for this bill was on behalf of what I considered a real vocal minority. Now I am not saying their rights should not be adhered to or listened to but it was not the majority of the people concerned with this adoptive issue that came before our committee or I believe came to Senator Newell with this proposal. I think the major point that we should make in making our determination and final judgment on this issue is that the assurance of confidentiality no longer exists. Now for many years adoption agencies have provided this as a part of their service and I think we have to consider all the people here in the State of Nebraska who formerly adopted children feeling that they would have the confidentiality if this bill is enacted, that would no longer exist. Additionally, there was one provision that perhaps it is an oversight and I would mention this to Senator Newell for his remarks and comments but the gentleman who wrote to me, and I might add that this person is in the practice and is a professional social worker, is also the son of an adopted father as well as being the father of both adopted and natural children. So it is not just someone that has very little interest or knowledge in this subject. But one of the points that this gentleman brought to my attention, and, Senator Newell, if I might ask, his indication was that this bill does not address itself to those situations where natural parents' parental rights were severed by the court action for cause, and in reading it over, I think that I am in concurrence with that and I was wondering whether this was eliminated by design or it has just been a matter of oversight?

SENATOR NEWELL: The bill does not address that at all.

SENATOR STONEY: That is the point that this gentleman was making, should it not, since it is a comprehensive change in the adoptive laws, address that particular subject?