

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Stoney, what would you propose that it address? The situation...the purpose for this bill, and I will take issue with the question of vocal minorities and those kinds of things, is to try to accommodate adults who have been adopted. That was the primary purpose, adults who had been adopted, to find their natural parents because we are in the age where people really want to know, they feel there is a need to know and the purpose here is that if the court records show that there was cause, and we are talking about a very few number, if it shows that there was cause for that separation, that does not negate the child's desire or the young adult's desire or even the mature adult's desire to know, and for that reason, we have not made any provisions there. I don't think, you know, people...that is the answer to the question, Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Newell, the only reason that I brought it up and brought it to your attention, I am not attempting to be argumentative because I do not possess a great deal of expertise in this field, and this gentleman who I know does have some knowledge has brought this to my attention and I felt that it was legitimate in bringing it to the body's attention. I do have a great deal of empathy and sympathy for those individuals who have been adopted in their subsequent search for their roots and their heritage but I think one important thing that we must consider is that there are three parties that are involved in this triangle, not only that child, but also the natural parents as well as the adoptive parents, and the only point that I would like to stress again is that there are hundreds, perhaps thousands here in the state of Nebraska who through private agencies have adopted children in the past with the assurance that there would be confidentiality, and if this law were enacted, that would no longer be true. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, do you wish to be recognized on the bill?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise with some of the same concerns that have been expressed by Senator Stoney. I believe it probably bothers me more than anything to recognize that this Legislature would pass legislation which just almost blatantly disregards the rights of citizens to have entered into agreements which they considered to be sacred and all of a sudden those agreements are no longer valid. Notwithstanding many of the very fine arguments that Senator Newell proposes for his legislation, I still believe