

you be acceptable to this. If the answer is no, that is the end of the matter, Senator Schmit. They cannot contact them against their will. So you have to have the agreement of the natural parents. In addition, you have to have the agreement of the mother and/or father that has served as the parent...okay, you have to have the approval of the natural parents and I think that that generally precludes...that leaves one arena that you can wish to discuss and that is whether or not the parents or the people who have served as parents have rights but I think the main concern that I have heard people say is that the parents who have given up a son or daughter for adoption have certain rights and those rights are protected under this amendment. So I think it is important to understand that Senator Newell after having quite a bit of discussion, and I even sat in on some of the interim studies, and I don't think I have seen any bill around that has had more discussion or more debate than this one. I think that generally will alleviate the concerns that the constituents, that your constituents have raised. I know it alleviates the concerns that mine have.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, a question of Senator Newell.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR COPE: Senator Newell, I would like to pursue what Senator Stoney was speaking about a bit ago and also Senator Schmit. Now as protection to the parents who have adopted children prior to this time, would you be amenable to an amendment to put a grandfather clause on this so those rights start as of today and that would protect the parents who when they adopted these children believed that it was going to be confidential?

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Cope, let me answer that, and I will try to do it briefly, but it will take just a bit of an explanation. What has happened during the course of my entering the bill was I entered the bill, there was a great deal of flak because there was not only some misunderstanding but the original provisions did not protect the natural parent and it was opposed because of the low age limit. We made some modifications during the course of this and we have general agreement on this bill at this time. The adoptive agencies are in agreement with this bill. The adoptees, the people who are really interested