

Senator Newell, several times I have heard you say that you are sorry that you introduced this bill. Publicly I state that I am not sorry that you introduced this bill. I admire very much the courage that it takes to face difficult issues such as adoptive children and adoptive parents. We owe you a debt of gratitude and I here express it publicly. It may be that one or two wrinkles like private placement will be straightened out but, please, Senator Newell, say that you are proud to be the introducer of this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you want to close on your...have we got another motion?

SENATOR NEWELL: Right, I think that first of all I have to deal with some of the misconceptions that presently are being discussed on the floor of the Legislature. First I would like to deal with Senator Haberman's misconception. Senator Haberman, first of all, we are not dealing with the bill, we are dealing with the committee amendments. That is what this motion is. We are trying to adopt the committee amendments. The first thing I would like to deal with is Senator Haberman's point that he made about the "show good cause". The Supreme Court of the United States of America has said that "good cause" is for medical reasons only. That is all good cause can be. It is not for a need to know. It is not for a desire to open up the records to find out. It is not for anything other than medical reasons only. For that reason there is a need for this piece of legislation. That is the first thing I would like to deal with. The second thing I would like to deal with is that touching story that Senator Haberman brought up, that very touching story which I had heard many times during the course of last year, and for that reason, Senator Haberman, we have offered the amendments that are before this body at this time, the amendments that say that the child can not walk in and say, "Hi, Mommy," unless, of course, there has been some correspondence and that mommy says, yes, I would like to meet my child. So that story, Senator Haberman, that you so tearjerkingly told cannot happen and I wish that you would...it can't happen and I will be careful, as Senator Simon has suggested. The question before this body at this time is the adoption of the committee amendments. There is general consensus on this bill. You know, it has been hard to establish. We have had, Senator Nichol's Judiciary Committee has had a series of hearings. Those hearings have been by and large positive. In fact, there has been little opposition and I would like to ask Senator Nichol if he could just briefly give a short