

January 16, 1980

LB 483

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp, do you want to be recognized on LB 483?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Vard has got a good amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly, do you want to speak to the Johnson amendment?

SENATOR KELLY: I have a question to Senator Johnson.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: My question would involve the definition of the word "parent", particularly as it would relate to, for the vernacular, a teenager. Under the present operation of 47-701, what are the procedures precisely that are followed whereby a teenager, a parent, relinquishes control or gives consent or in some way or other conforms to the fact that the parent is the one that is doing the adopting of the child? Will you give me the detail on that?

SENATOR JOHNSON: Sure. A young woman finds herself pregnant. A young woman gives it serious thought as to what it is she wants to do. She decides that she wants to place that baby for adoption. She has several alternatives. One of the present alternatives is to go to a licensed agency, such as the Nebraska Children's Home Society, the Child Saving Institute and commence counseling and so the agency says this child is to be an adopted child. When the baby is born, usually the caseworker from the agency will go to this young woman in the hospital and will take from her a relinquishment and a consent to an adoption. It is a statement, and will then take the child from the hospital and give the child to the prospective adoptive parents and that is it. I mean that basically terminates the relationship which that young lady had. Now that is through a licensed agency. Now if we were going through the black market or the gray market route, you would find an intermediary, a doctor or a lawyer, making the very same arrangements, find a prospective adoptive parent. All right, and for a fee, this is all illegal, but for a fee making the same kind of arrangements, getting the relinquishment, getting the girl to sign a relinquishment or the consent and what have you. Now under a lawful situation, you can have an adult, usually not a teenager this time, usually it is an adult, has the child, had the child for several months, maybe a year or two and decides he can't cope any more and

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