

SENATOR NEWELL: Okay. I am sorry, Senator Johnson, I misunderstood that. I thought in reference to Senator Koch's question that you in fact said that a parent could not place private adoption. Now I ask the second part of the question, since we have got agreement here at this point, we both agree to what we understand here that there still can be private placements for those exceptions. The second part of the question deals with the lawyer. What takes a lawyer out of the process? What takes an attorney out of the process? My contention is that an attorney is not taken out of the process. He is only regulated by the Department of Welfare or by an agency.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Customarily, Senator Newell, since you are still addressing a question to me, the only involvement that a lawyer has in the process is to prepare the legal documents so the adoption itself can be effected. That is the traditional involvement, but what this bill does, Senator Newell, what your bill does is it precludes the parent himself from finding people that he wants to put his child with with the exception of looking at his own parents, his stepparents and right on down the line and that is what my amendment gets to. I don't want to preclude the parent from making that kind of a search because I know in fact it goes on all the time and it is a healthy function. It is not an unhealthy function. It facilitates adoptions. It means simply that people don't always have to work through a licensed child placement agency or through the Welfare Department but, in fact, can work independently.

SENATOR NEWELL: Finally, Senator Johnson, would you include more exceptions then?

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have twenty seconds left.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, I would include the world.

SENATOR NEWELL: The world, and thereby we get back to the problems that we have. I am opposed to taking this out. I think that we will greatly detract from this bill. There are a number of problems that are created here. The agencies, every adoption agency is absolutely adamant to continuing to the absolute private placement and the list that would continue with the Johnson amendment. For that reason I oppose it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly, do you want to be recognized on the Johnson amendment?