

February 11, 1980

LB 483

land. The Department of Vital Statistics felt that at the time of adoption was the time to get that information on the birth certificate when there was adequate information available so that it could be an accurate record and as helpful to the Nebraska adoptive parents and to that adoptive child at some future time. Rather than having it be general, they felt it would be much more helpful to be specific, and if you look on page 595, it is speaking specifically to probable place of birth including the city or town. That information is not always available, but when it is available, it should be part of the permanent record at the time that adoptive paper is signed legally in the court, and the Department of Statistics, Vital Statistics, requested that I add this to 483 for their needs and purposes and I said I was willing to do so. I then talked to Senator Newell who felt he would not spend his time fighting with me on this since it was a technical amendment rather than changing the intent of what is already there. You may vote against 483 but I still hope you will support getting this amendment on it for the Department of Health.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay, just a moment, you are using up my time, Senator Marsh, and I have a comment to make. One more question and I hope the answer is brief. Are you not asking for a conclusion by some individual who may or may not have accurate information relative to the place of birth, and when you say "probable", what degree of authenticity do we have in regard to that information? How do we know it is authentic?

SENATOR MARSH: It would be court record and that would be the only information. Sometimes that information is not available, sir, but when it is available, that could then be part of a permanent record rather than simply saying someone was born in Southeast Asia, to indicate which country, or if they actually know the place, then indicate that place and it will allow the Department of Vital Statistics to have a blank on their form for that information when available and I am asking for this at their request.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Okay, Senator Marsh. Well, as I said earlier, I didn't understand the amendment. I appreciate your explanation. I think it does draw for a conclusion by people who may or may not be in a position to give information. I think it may lead to inaccuracy as much as accuracy. I really do not know if it helps or hurts the bill. I would say at this point in time that I can't