

in being able to find out who their parents are have agreed, not without some problems, to the high age limit of twenty-five but there is no way...their desire is to be able to find out once they become adults, the age twenty-five or over, to find out who their biological parents were, and if that provision were placed into this bill, then there would be no consensus. Then what will happen is that we will now be lobbied by adoptees looking to open up these records, and for that reason, there is no sure way of killing this legislation. It is a tenuous balance at best right now.

SENATOR COPE: You have protected everyone but the parents, that is, the parents who adopted the child and they should, I believe, have some protection.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Cope, originally the parents who adopted the children were concerned about the bill, the way it was written. Now I have received general agreement even by the parents who have adopted children, that at twenty-five years old, they are not going to stand in the way of their children, and they are their children, they brought those children up. They may not be the biological parents but they are the parents of those children. They are not going to stand in their way of their child, if he wants to know, and it is only if he wants to know. If he doesn't want to know, he says, no, I do not want to know. I don't want to learn my natural parent, and most of the people that are looking to open up these adoption records are adoptees, not biological parents coming the other way, and so they generally agree that they don't want to stand in their children's way. There is a consensus on this bill. The only people that are not generally in consensus on this bill are...and it deals with a totally different section and that is the section on whether lawyers, whether private adoptions, it says you can still have private adoptions but you have got to go through the Welfare Department or an agency. The only people who are opposed to this are a few lawyers whose major practice is adoption.

SENATOR COPE: I think more than a few, that is people I have talked with, that is parents.

SENATOR NEWELL: Recently, Senator Cope? We have worked this out during the course of this summer. Last year there was a lot of opposition to this bill but.....

SENATOR COPE: Also since we started...I won't say a great deal.