

those of you who have been on the Judiciary Committee in the past would readily agree with what I have to say. As long as I can remember the Judiciary Committee has been annually assaulted by suggested changes to our juvenile laws every session. These suggestions come from approximately twenty different groups which are essentially juvenile advocacy groups throughout the state, PTA's, Foster Parent Associations, Adoptive Parents Association, Child Abuse Associations, Juvenile Justice Groups, Committees for Children and Youth and other use advocacy agencies continually bringing their suggestions to us. Now there is one thing that you learn very quickly in this area, is that each one of these groups think they have the right answers no matter what the question may be. I'm including in these comments references to judges groups and attorney groups as well as other groups comprised mainly of lay persons. These groups frequently have different philosophies as to how to treat the youth in this state and causes being advocated by one group or another, frequent conflict with those being advocated by another group. Now it has happened because of the failure of these various groups to coordinate their efforts and philosophies has been the enactment of various laws dealing with children and youth that have as their only common denominator the fact that they are all found in Chapter 43. Because of this mish-mash it is most difficult, if not impossible, for everyone to read through Chapter 43, Article 2 of the Nebraska revised statutes and make any sense out of them whatsoever. This is not to say that those people who have been advocating changes in the juvenile court statutes over the years are not sincere. They are not only sincere they are also hard working and persistent. But in their insistence to make a small substantive change here and there, a substantive there without attempting to fit those changes within some sort of overall structure, what has resulted has been what has been called by one juvenile court judge a legal plate of spaghetti. We are aware of this problem. The Judiciary Committee introduced interim study resolution 264 in the spring of 1979 to coordinate efforts to recodify Nebraska's juvenile code. The Judiciary Committee agreed to work with a group of judges and attorneys who we felt were in forefront of the juvenile law area in the State of Nebraska. Essentially the Judiciary Committee went out looking for their expertise which was so badly needed if we were going to return our juvenile court statutes to a comprehensive form. We were indeed fortunate to find that expertise, in fact, it turns out this group of judges and attorneys were just as concerned as we were and were looking for some type of legislative sponsorship. Let me give you