

adjudication within six months after the petition is filed.  
I move the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, I certainly don't agree to.... I don't object to Senator Johnson's amendment, I agree to it. I think it is a good thing to set a limit of time on that of six months. I urge the adoption of his amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: All those in favor of the adoption of the amendment vote aye, opposed vote no. This is the Johnson amendment. Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the first Johnson amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is carried, amendment is adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Johnson moves to amend LB 346.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this amendment is a much more substantive amendment in the sense that I think this has a greater impact than the first amendment does. I want you, if you will, if you will open your bills up and take a look at page 40, you will see precisely what it is that I intend to do by this amendment. This existing law right now says that a parent's right to a parent's child may be terminated for a variety of reasons and one of the reasons that the rights may be terminated is this. The parents are unable to discharge parental responsibilities because of mental illness or mental deficiency and there are reasonable grounds to believe that such condition will continue for a prolonged indeterminate period. My amendment would remove that ground as one of the grounds for terminating parental rights. Now I have thought about this at some length. The reason I got to thinking about it is I introduced the bill this session to provide termination of parental rights proceedings in the district court. When I introduced that bill I just copied existing juvenile court law. People came in and they testified against the termination feature with respect to those parents who might be mentally ill or suffer some mental deficiency and their point was that this is the only place in the law where a condition, where a condition, so to speak, allows for the termination of parental rights as opposed to some failing shortcoming or fault. Virtually every other ground to terminate parental