

their personal circumstances is lost to the state and is lost to the courts and hopefully LB 714 will bring this kind of situation to an abrupt and well deserved halt. I support the amendments.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I, too, rise to support the amendments and the bill. We need the review of foster care cases. Our concern for children, those in foster care as well as in other categories where the state has a concern and an interest, needs to have this overview mandated so that it is accomplished. No one wants to lose a child in the shuffle. No one wants a case to drift on and on but it has happened in our state. This is a piece of legislation which everyone in the State of Nebraska should welcome and certainly every member of the Legislature should support. The entire state needs this legislation, not just the big cities, not just the county seats, but all of Nebraska can benefit from this piece of legislation and it will help to ensure that our future citizens of our state are part of the ongoing answers and not adding to the problem. I urge your adoption of the committee amendments and the rapid advancement of LB 714.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I certainly support this bill wholeheartedly. I suspect there still needs some cleanup work on the amendments but that can be done in Select File but I want to call your attention to a couple of facts. The first thing I want to call your attention to is the fact that a senator that we normally think of as a conservative, fiscally tight senator, George Fenger, is carrying this measure and I think that that is a sign simply to all folk in the state of Nebraska that every member in this Legislature genuinely and deeply cares about the well-being of some persons in our society that are too easily forgotten and I have told a number of groups that are interested in human services who have come to me because they think I tend to support human services' issues, that they can go to any member in this body and they can tell the story of suffering and pain and travail and they will receive a sympathetic ear. And what has happened in this case quite simply is that persons who have cared for children in foster care have told their story and it is a terrible story. It is a story of how we, as a society, have tended to overlook little children who for one reason or another are removed from their parents and then brooded about a system that frankly is indifferent to their well-being. I have a