

March 15, 1982

LB 714

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays to adopt committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries. The committee amendments are adopted. Now, Senator DeCamp, or which one of you wants to handle the discussion at this point? Senator DeCamp. You have two minutes for the bill.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, are there any speakers on the bill?

PRESIDENT: Senator Pirsch, I believe wants to speak yet. Is that right, Senator Pirsch?

SENATOR DeCAMP: She says she is...okay then, I would make a closing if that's okay?

PRESIDENT: All right then, then you will be closing if Senator Pirsch does not care to speak.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes.

PRESIDENT: You are closing, so go ahead.

SENATOR DeCAMP: In my two minutes let me just say I introduced this bill because I got a letter in the mail one day from a young gal that said you wouldn't believe the problems with foster children and I just wish somebody would listen and look and find out the facts. So I wrote her a letter back and I said, come on in and talk. What I found out just shocked the living shorts off of me because it is serious. We have \$13 million being spent right now in Nebraska to pay people to take care of children. A similar piece of legislation passed in two other states in the first year cut that amount by about one-third. In other words, children that could be adopted, children that could be returned to their families, children that could be more properly handled simply get into the system are lost, not one or two or ten or a hundred or a thousand but several thousands of children and they are skyrocketing upwards. We apparently have a good system to get them into the funnel, into a courtroom. We don't have any system to get them out, to get them taken care of, to get them into families and what we've been doing is simply add millions more each year on the budget to pay people to go take care of them here, there or whatever. This legislation says, hey, you know this is a big problem from a social standpoint, it needs to be corrected, but from a monetary standpoint millions of dollars can be saved immediately but above and beyond that millions of dollars in the future, a child that might end up in prison, a child that might end up not going to college, not being trained properly will get into a system where they get these things done.