

the Family Policy Act was because there were instances, which I'm sure you are as aware of as anybody, where somebody was imposing, usually they are white, middle-class values on a family coming in and saying, this family for whatever reason doesn't meet my standards and, therefore, I'm taking this kid out of home. I think that accounts for why you have more black children often out of homes and Indian children out of their homes than white children and that is a well-established fact. That is why we passed the Family Policy Act with very...with the language saying you should try to keep those families together. What I think has happened, given the experiences we're having right now, is that pendulum has swung so far over that what we're seeing is families have been in some instances kept together, the way they are interpreting this language, when it is clearly in not in the best interests of the child and children have not been removed from home settings when I think any of us walking in there and taking a look around would have said, this child is in danger. I guess I'm not absolutely married to this language. I'm simply trying to adopt language that gets us out of that predicament that I see right now which I don't think that no matter what we put in statute, it is still going to come down to a matter of interpretation and judgment of that person out there who is investigating whatever is going on with that child. And so that is why I keep stressing the notion of training and why that is so important, but you bring in a very interesting and valid point about individuals going in and imposing their own economic and social values and when they make these decisions here, your discussion is very valid in terms of the difficulties we've seen trying to come up with good language.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: How much time do I have?

SPEAKER BARRETT: Two and a half minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I appreciate the comments of Senators Smith and Scofield. Maybe all they need to do is, if they've got to put something in the law, is take the words on the first page consistent with the needs of the child. See, a lot of people, especially in the schools, have no concern about black children at all. A lot of times our children are more spontaneous in what they do, they speak in a more...in a louder voice, so if a black teacher were