

February 23, 1990

be on the Foster Care Review Board because Dennis Carlson was not appointed is not a good premise at all. I was impressed with Alice Bartels. I think she should be confirmed and I urge you to confirm her. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Wesely, you wish to speak on this.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, thank you. Mr. President, and members, I rise in opposition to the appointment of Alice Bartels, or Bartels, whatever, to the Foster Care Review Board. The committee did vote in favor of this appointment and I can understand and appreciate that very much. Alice Bartels, herself, is not at issue here really. She is a school lunch manager out of Tobias, I understand, and at the hearing presented herself quite well as a foster parent, and I think would serve well on the Foster Care Review Board. The unfortunate situation is, and although Senator Crosby would indicate this is a nonissue, I think it needs to be at least addressed at this point, is that she replaces Dennis Carlson. Now Dennis Carlson I know would have liked to have stayed on the Foster Care Review Board. Dennis Carlson is as much responsible for cracking the Franklin case as anybody in this state. There is many individuals that have made a difference on that issue, but I know how dedicated and involved Dennis Carlson was at moving that issue forward and working with Senator Schmit and Senator Chambers and others to see that some justice hopefully will eventually be brought to that situation. With an individual who has achieved that, who has done that much for our state, who has clearly served well and has the respect of all involved of both parties of any background involved in this issue, and would like to have remained on the Foster Care Review Board and not be reappointed raises some serious questions, and I don't know quite the answer. I did pass out what articles there are on this matter. Perhaps the fact he is a Democrat, which I, frankly, did not know until I saw it in the paper, perhaps something else, new blood was what the Governor's Office indicated the Governor had in mind, but new blood at a time when the Foster Care Review Board was involved in a very critical case that Dennis Carlson was intimately familiar with, a person who should have been able to retain that position and be continuing to offer his services to the state as we work through this very difficult issue, no, I don't think new blood was called for at that moment. And so in my estimation, some real serious questions have to be raised about what is happening