

February 23, 1990

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. I guess, again, the issue before us is the appointment of Alice Bartels to a position previously held by Dennis Carlson to the Foster Care Review Board. The committee voted four in favor, one opposed, one not voting, one absent, and I would like to give a minute of my closing time to Senator Baack. He has requested a chance to have a minute of my time.

PRESIDENT: Senator Baack.

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. President, and colleagues, I feel like I need to explain my vote on this issue. As a member of the Franklin Committee, I can't tell you how invaluable the service of Dennis Carlson has been in first bringing out the issue of child and sexual abuse, and if it had not been for Dennis Carlson and for Carol Stitt, we probably would not have progressed to the point that we are now. I think that...I don't know Mrs. Bartels. I have no idea who she is or what her qualifications are for this office, and that is not the issue here. I think the issue here is one of a lack of sensitivity on the part of the Governor's Office in making an appointment in this case, at a point in time when we were making some real progress. I think on the Franklin Committee, we are continuing to make some progress in this area of child sexual abuse. I think it showed an extreme lack of insensitivity to take Dennis Carlson off of this board. So my vote is going to be not voting. I will not vote against Mrs. Bartels because I don't know who she is. She may be a very valuable addition to that group, but I will not vote to confirm her and I would encourage others to do the same and send this confirmation back to the Governor and ask her to reconsider and to possibly reappoint Dennis Carlson to the Foster Care Review Board because I think he has provided invaluable service in that way. And I will turn the time back over to Senator Wesely. Thank you.

SENATOR WESELY: I would only add that there has been excellent discussion of a very important issue, a very important appointment, and now I guess it is time for a vote.

PRESIDENT: The question is the affirmation of Alice Bartels. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Senator Byars has asked for a call of the house. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.