

to talk to the caseworkers, talk to the parents, any other relatives that had any knowledge of the situation, and then report to the court with a recommendations.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay,...

SENATOR MATZKE: Now that can be done either...well, in most cases the juvenile would be present or in that area. But in my particular case the juvenile was placed in a foster home with relatives in Arizona before I was even appointed. I had to wait some time before he returned to Nebraska to visit with him.

SENATOR AVERY: Well what...if potentially that child was left in that home and you had to give some evidence of what that home life in Arizona was, how would you actually know what type of environment that he may be in?

SENATOR MATZKE: Well, the Department of Social Services had their cooperating agency in Arizona check out the home very carefully, and we had full, firsthand reports as to the home in Arizona. So there are ways of doing it, even if you cannot personally talk to the juvenile him or herself.

SENATOR AVERY: Okay, thank you. I still think what that, they have to take the word of someone. You don't know how potential...reliable that is, that initial investigation may be. But I think it is very important that there be one attempt, and in this case the contact could be made as they're checking out the residence or where that child is placed, even for a short duration or maybe a long duration. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Avery. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers, followed by Senator Vrtiska.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I was given an assignment by Senator Matzke. In the two or three minutes that I had to do a little checking, the term we were going to consider was ad litem. Well, litem is a Latin term, as everybody probably knows by now. And in the law it has various Latin terms or prefixes. The term litem is usually rendered to mean suit, like a lawsuit. The ad, a-d, placed in front of it means, as Senator Matzke indicated, for, or on behalf of, or in the stead of somebody who is not able to prosecute the suit in his or her own name. So it could be a juvenile, somebody who is mentally incapacitated, but that is