

to go off in Nebraska almost went off last year. And, of course, going to the Supreme Court and the time it would take, we're talking about a year or more before ultimately that would have all been settled perhaps, and we would have had a Baby Jessica case all over again, right here in the State of Nebraska. And that's one of the senses of urgencies that I have and why we need to at least address the issue. We need to take the time to do it carefully and thoughtfully, and Senator Matzke has put in a lot of time, Senator Hall is asking good questions and others are as well. But in my view, based on what the constitu...how the constitution is now being interpreted by courts across the country, you can't be in a situation where you have a child adopted and the father of that child is not given notice. I mean it just fundamentally runs counter to the constitution in terms of rights of individuals to have knowledge of decisions made affecting their family. So in my view, we don't want to take that risk. And I know there are those that say, to heck with the father. I mean if they're the father, so what, I mean that's not something we should be concerned about, they're bad and forget about them. And that was the attitude of some that came and opposed the bill, they have very negative feelings toward the father, and I understand that. But let me also tell you that if you care about the adopting parents that's why you want to vote for this bill. It's not a bill for the fathers so much as it is for the parents who get these children and aren't going to know for sure that that child is going to stay in their home, that's the tragedy that we're trying to avoid here, and it's a tragedy that almost occurred in this state with a case that just came up a year ago. And there will be another one and it will happen if we don't pass this bill in some form in the very near future, in my view. It's just a time bomb waiting to go off. So that's my interest. I know Senator Bromm talked about concern about the adopting parents, I think that's all our concern. I do think that the fathers involved have a right to notice. I think that the courts are proper to raise that issue. But to do it in the absence of this statute and not having it clear...clarified in our statutes and then having (inaudible)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...mistake and then having that child dragged away from that adopting parents home, and the worry going on right now, that's the other thing the adopting parents that came into our committee and the concern that they have, you know, are