

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: So the mother, at this point, and I'll have to punch on my light again, the mother, at this point, in essence, does not have to say, for whatever reason she wants to give or not give, who the father is at that point. I'm assuming if that happens obviously no notification can take place. And what you're saying then is no adoption can take place at that time, that it would be the ward of the state for life, is that what you're indicating?

SENATOR MATZKE: Well, no, normally during the counseling process, when the biological mother is being counseled about adoption, she has to make this decision. If she is going to...if she wants to put her child up for adoption then she has to be willing to go ahead with the relinquishment and the consent, and this just adds another document called an affidavit of identity. Now if she decides in her own mind that she does not want to go forward with the adoption, then of course the child is hers.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Time.

SENATOR MATZKE: It doesn't become a ward of the state, it just continues to be her child.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Witek, your light is next, followed by Senators Elmer, Bromm and Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam President, members of the body, now that we all have our dictionaries out and putative is reputed, supposed or thought to be such. I guess then we're not just making a word change that means the same. We're being asked to make a change and it's really...if you're saying biological father registry, then an individual who is pretty sure that they're the biological father would register in that registry, or the individual who's pretty sure they're the biological father could be...just directly register or contact the adoption agency or the lawyer handling the adoption and the registry probably won't get used very much then I would imagine in that case. But if you'd say putative or possible, I guess I was bringing up some scenarios. Believe me, I'm not one to protect somebody who's not going to come forward and accept their responsibilities, I think I already made that pretty clear. But I've talked to some of the law professors and stuff who have