

think you hit on, that you started to discuss and I want to discuss it, is the provision that allows the mother to revoke her relinquishment and consent once she finds out that the biological father is going to claim paternity. And I have some real concerns about that. I talked to Senator Matzke about it before today. We never really go to the point of doing an amendment but here I'm thinking about the child. Now we've got a child that's put up for adoption and by all data that I know of, the first few weeks and months of a child's life are terribly important, more so than we can believe. And I sup...I know that's true because I adopted a child at age four and I adopted a child at age three weeks, and I can tell you those first four years are terribly formative in a child's life. And so this newborn child goes into a home for six months, we have notice to the father, perhaps we didn't know where he was or the mother didn't tell us, or maybe we just found him, he comes in six months after the child has been with the adoptive parents and decides that he wants to claim his paternity rights and seek custody. And the court has to decide what's in the best interests of the child at that point. Now if that opens up the door for the mother to come in six months after having given birth to the child and not having given any indication she wants to revoke her relinquishment and consent up until that time, and she can do it, I have some problems with that. And I think that opens up the door for things that we're trying to not accomplish with this bill. It opens up a door we're trying to close. So I...at some point I'm going to offer an amendment which leaves the relinquishment and consent language the same way that it is in the statutes today and does not open this door up for the relinquishment and consent some months later. I think the mother and the father each deserve an opportunity to decide if they want to be a father or mother to this child. But I don't think the mother deserves two opportunities simply because the father comes in and...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SENATOR BROMM: ...and decides he wants to claim paternity. When the mother signs that relinquishment she doesn't know exactly what home that child is going to be in. She's trusting the...at least in the case of an agency, usually, trusting that the agency will pick a good home. With regard to private placement she might know and she might not. But in any event for the best interests of the child I can't subscribe to the theory that we open it back up and allow that natural mother to