

April 11, 1995

LB 712

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So we don't strike the word "fathers"?

SENATOR JENSEN: No.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay.

SENATOR JENSEN: Wait a minute. To fathers, yes, it is taken out.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So it should be including fath...yeah, or through fathers. The main point that I want to find out, you want to strike the word "fathers" also?

SENATOR JENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, are there any lights on, Mr. Speaker?

SPEAKER WITHEM: There are.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Then I'm going to end mine at this point so I can absorb it.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Matzke, on the Jensen amendment.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, again, this is an amendment that originated in our discussions between Senator Jensen and Senator Bromm and I. My understanding is that the objection was that the language in LB 712 could be interpreted to require the agency or the attorney to, in the language, attempt to obtain a relinquishment and consent to adoption, and that would place a predisposition on the part of the attorney or agency to go after a relinquishment or a consent to adoption, and that the change in this language takes away that pressure to obtain the relinquishment and consent and instead imposes upon the agency or the attorney the duty to inform the biological father of his right to sign a relinquishment or consent. I think that there was no intent in drafting this law to place an obligation on an agency or an attorney to go out and get the relinquishment and consent from the biological father. The intent was to inform him of his rights so that then he can make his own decision as to whether he wants to relinquish the child and consent to the adoption. And I think this language that is offered by Senator Jensen does a better job of explaining the intent of the statute than the language that I had in the original bill. And I thank