

May 3, 1995

LB 712

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. Clerk, could we just, instead of my writing out another amendment, just substitute 48 hours for everything that's up there in terms of my amendments, on this issue?

CLERK: All right, Senator, so you want to pull both your amendment to the amendment and the amendment and offer an amendment that calls for 48 hours. Is that...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, and that will make a clean, precise issue that we're dealing with.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: If there's no objection, it is so ordered.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Madam President. Thank you, Mr. Clerk, for your assistance. Thank you, Senator Matzke, for your graciousness in setting me up for the onslaught which will come. But, members of the Legislature, I think one of the most serious decisions we could ask a young woman to make, a middle-aged woman to make, or an older woman to make is to give up here child and never see that child again as her child. There are all types of pressures which a woman can be facing which might lead her to think that giving her child up for adoption is the wise course or even, if not wise, the only practical course. Some young women have pressures brought to bear on them by the relatives with whom they live, being told if you don't get rid of this child, you're not going to stay here. Senator Matzke and I know that some of these adoptions are arranged by attending physicians and it's not out of the question to believe that a young woman could develop an affinity with a doctor who has treated her and could be persuaded...I call it coercion, could be persuaded by that doctor to give the child up to adoption and participate in that whole activity. The young woman is there alone vulnerable, being asked to make a decision from which she can never withdraw her consent, never. If you say that she has 24 hours, you have to consider what might be going on during the 24 hours after birth. There could be again the physical trauma of the birth itself. There could be these other problems that I touched on lightly which would make her feel pressured, and it would be the same as giving her no time at all. What I would like to see us do is say that after a woman has signed a consent to allow her child to be placed for adoption she would have a 28-hour period within which to change her mind. We're not talking about a commodity here. We're not talking about a vehicle. We're not talking about a

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