

ends and everybody will go away happy, except the mother, but that's no different from the situation we have now. So I'm asking that you give this amendment your consideration and adopt it. As...since this is an adoption bill, I think that is the appropriate term for me to use with reference to this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Matzke, followed by Senator Wesely.

SENATOR MATZKE: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I...I hope all of you were listening when Senator Chambers read his proposed amendment. Without a doubt, it is the most grotesque amendment that has been offered this body during the course of this session. It is macabre, it is perverted, it's irrational and it's cruel. He knows that. I hope that actually it was offered with a sense of humor and not a sense of seriousness. We have debated this bill over six hours on General File, over nine and a half hours on Select File. This bill has been subject to 17 amendments. It has been dissected, reconstructed, amended, approved and Senator Chambers has participated in that and many of his amendments have been beneficial to the bill. But I have difficulty trying to understand his motivation in offering such an irrational amendment that talks in terms of, and I quote, "should a multiple birth occur, the mother may be permitted to keep one of her babies." Then in Section 36 it says, and I quote, "Any hospital or health care provider who hands over a newborn child to an adoption agency pursuant to these provisions shall inform the mother of such child that her baby was stillborn." I'm afraid I fail to see much humor in this. This bill is a very serious attempt by Senator Wesely and I and others who have participated in it to limit the grief and difficulty that results in litigation between biological fathers and adoptive parents. There's been a great deal of study and work go into this bill. It's in very good form. I'm indebted to Senator Bromm, Senator Jensen, Senator Stuhr, and many others who have contributed ideas to this bill. I acknowledge the one concern that Senator Chambers has and that's the question of whether a woman should be entitled to terminate or withdraw her relinquishment after she has relinquished a child for adoption. The present law of Nebraska has been in place for many, many decades. It is an issue that is outside of this adoption bill. It is an issue, as I've said before, that was not dealt with by the interim study, it was not dealt with by the bill or by the hearing, public hearing before the committee. I also want to