

didn't vote because his name is not on the list. In all seriousness though, this is a serious resolution. It was brought to my attention by some constituents in my district last year who had tried to go through the Intercountry Adoption, going to other countries for adoption purposes, and they were very distraught with the sort of experiences they had gone through because the types of things that we attempt to do to make the adoption process work more smoothly and we realize from previous debates we've had how it's not always the consensus on how it should operate here, but we at least have statutory provisions in place that make the process flow in a way which is understandable and in most case, we hope anyway, not that exploitive of anybody involved in it. So...but we did find some constituents that had been involved in the adoption processes in other countries very concerned about the fact that it's essen' ally an unregulated process and they asked us to do something about it. We felt, obviously, there wasn't a lot we could do about it until we found out, through the diligent work of...one of my staff members, found out that there is a process going on, an international sort of process going on to attempt to make some consistency in the international standards as it relates to adoption. And we further found out that there is a conference taking place in the United States and, as we indicated, it was supposed to have been in the early spring. I don't know if there is a date established yet at this point; later on in the fall, is that correct, and all we're doing is urging our people in the Department of Social Services to participate in that conference so that we can communicate to the conference some of the concerns that Nebraskans have and so that we can be part of the process of fashioning any sort of solution. I would urge your adoption of the resolution.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Withem a few questions, if I may.

PKESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Withem, why is it necessary that the Legislature be involved in this at all at this point?