

## Standing Committee on Private Bills

8:40 a.m.

[Chairman: Mr. Renner]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, good morning, everyone. I'd like to call this meeting to order. This is the meeting of the Standing Committee on Private Bills. If you'll turn to the agenda section, I first would like to have approval of the agenda for today.

Mr. Amery.

MR. AMERY: So moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Moved by Mr. Amery. All in favour? Opposed? Carried.

I would also like to get approval of the committee for the minutes of Tuesday, April 12.

MRS. LAING: So moved.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Laing moves. Any discussion, errors, or omissions? All in favour of the motion? Opposed? Carried.

You will note that we have three adult adoptions to hear today. I have a little bit to cover under Other Business as well, so please everyone stay in your places when we're finished.

With that, then, Mr. Reynolds, would you ask the petitioners for Bill Pr. 1 to come in.

[Ms Mandy Anderson and Mrs. Sharon Anderson were sworn in]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Welcome. We had an opportunity to meet in the Confederation Room earlier, but just before we get started, of course I want to welcome you to the Legislature this morning and brief you a little bit about the status of your Bill and what we'll be doing this morning. Your Bill has received first reading in the Legislature, and it has been referred to this committee for our recommendations on whether or not it should proceed further. So that's the purpose of our meeting this morning.

This is an all-party committee of the Legislature. There are both government and opposition members on this committee. We have a pretty good cross section geographically across the province. I feel it's a very fair and thorough way of dealing with private Bills.

Just before we get started, I'd like to ask committee members to introduce themselves. We'll start with Mr. Wickman.

MR. WICKMAN: Percy Wickman. Good morning.

MR. HLADY: Mark Hlady. Good morning.

MR. PHAM: Good morning. Hung Pham, MLA, Calgary-Montrose.

MR. YANKOWSKY: Julius Yankowsky, Edmonton-Beverly-Belmont.

MRS. LAING: Bonnie Laing, Calgary-Bow.

MR. AMERY: Moe Amery, Calgary-East.

MR. HERARD: Denis Herard, Calgary-Egmont. Welcome.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And I'm Rob Renner. I'm the MLA for Medicine Hat.

With that, I would like to give you the opportunity to address the committee. Basically this is your opportunity to explain why you're asking for the adoption and why you feel the committee should grant it. You can remain seated if you're more comfortable.

MRS. S. ANDERSON: You're sure?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Sure.

MRS. S. ANDERSON: Actually, I think I prefer to stand, thank you.

Mr. Chairperson, I'm Sharon Anderson. I'm appearing on behalf of my husband, Leonard Anderson, to submit this petition for the Mandy Anderson private adoption Bill. Leonard Anderson could not appear because he is presently serving in the former republic of Yugoslavia with the Canadian contingent of the United Nations protection force.

The reasons for this petition are: (a) all previous attempts to adopt Mandy were unsuccessful; (b) we were advised to use this process once Mandy reached the age of majority; and (c) since Mandy has known only Leonard as her father, adoption is the final step to complete the bonds, emotional and legal, between them. The legal change of name process was considered and rejected because it does not have the same meaning and impact adoption has. Therefore, on behalf of my husband and daughter, I request that you approve the Mandy Anderson private adoption Bill.

Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for your time and consideration in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mrs. Anderson.

Mandy, do you have anything you'd like to add?

MS M. ANDERSON: No.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's fine.

Mr. Amery.

MR. AMERY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning.

I have one question. You mentioned that previous attempts to adopt Mandy were unsuccessful. Can you just elaborate a bit on this?

MRS. S. ANDERSON: We tried on two . . .

MR. AMERY: Was it before she was 18?

MRS. S. ANDERSON: Yes. We tried on two occasions, one when she was about 12 and another when she was about 15, and her natural father refused to sign the adoption papers. So rather than going through court and it being messy, we opted to wait until Mandy was of legal age to change her name. Then we found out about this avenue, and that's why we took this avenue.

MR. AMERY: Does he know about this taking place today?

MRS. S. ANDERSON: The natural father?

MR. AMERY: Yes.

MRS. S. ANDERSON: We have no contact whatsoever with him. He hasn't seen Mandy since she was six months old. I haven't seen

him probably in 19 years. There's been no contact whatsoever: birthday cards, nothing, nothing.

MR. AMERY: So you don't know where he is.

MRS. S. ANDERSON: I know where he lives. I know the status. We're still very much . . . Mandy is close to her grandmother -- his mother -- and she has two aunts on that side. We're still very much in contact, but we have nothing to do with him.

MR. AMERY: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.  
Mr. Hlady.

MR. HLADY: Actually, that answered my question.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.  
Mr. Herard.

MR. HERARD: I make the assumption that you did advertise this process and that to your knowledge no one is against this.

MRS. S. ANDERSON: That's right. We received nothing at all. We advertised it in the *Calgary Herald* on two occasions and in the *Alberta Gazette*. It was advertised as per the instructions.

MR. HERARD: Would the advertising likely have been seen in the area where the birth father resides?

MRS. S. ANDERSON: He lives in Alberta. He lives in Joffre, Alberta, so the option is there. Plus his mother is aware of what's going on; I've told her. So I'm sure he's aware.

MR. HERARD: Okay. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wickman.

MR. WICKMAN: Mrs. Anderson, I just wanted to say in terms of your presentation: very nicely done.

MRS. S. ANDERSON: Thank you. Actually, my husband wrote it. I'm just the bearer of the word.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions from the committee?  
I have a question. You mentioned the name change route. I take it Mandy has already changed her name, because it is the same as yours.

MRS. S. ANDERSON: Mandy's been going by Anderson since she was three years old. When Lenny and I were married, she was three. She's known him since she was a year and a half old. Basically he's the only father she's ever known. She's gone by Anderson all through school. Her licence, her passport . . .

MS M. ANDERSON: The only thing that doesn't have Anderson on it is my birth certificate. I've used my birth certificate for identification to get other identification, and they just ask "What name do you go by?" and I say Anderson.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I just want to make it clear that you understand that even if this adoption is granted, that does not legally change the name. You still would have to go through the legal name change process if you wanted to do that.

MRS. S. ANDERSON: Okay. My husband's probably aware of that. I wasn't aware of that. I thought this was the same as an adoption per se, that she would become Mandy Anderson.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The adoption would become formalized, but it would still be necessary for you to go to court to legally change the name should you wish to do so. You mentioned that you're getting married shortly, so actually it may be kind of pointless.

MRS. S. ANDERSON: Yes. We thought about that too. She asked her fiancé if he'd change his to Anderson but he wasn't willing, so I don't know.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reynolds, did you have any . . .

MR. REYNOLDS: Just a few more questions. I had corresponded with your husband about the legal name part. I think he knew this did not operate as a legal name change.

The other thing I wanted to advise the committee of: this is one of the petitions where there had to be a waiver granted by the Assembly, because the advertising for this was done prior to November 1, 1993. Unfortunately, Mr. Anderson had advertised in August or September last year, I believe, and sent in his application after the Private Bills Committee had set its agenda last session. He asked for a waiver for this session so they could have it considered by this session of the Assembly.

Mandy, I don't seem to have a copy of your birth certificate. How old are you?

8:50

MS M. ANDERSON: Twenty-two.

MR. REYNOLDS: Twenty-two. Okay. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any further questions from any members of the committee? Seeing none, thank you very much for coming this morning. As I explained earlier, the committee will be getting together on May 10 for deliberation, and you should hear from Parliamentary Counsel shortly after that on what the decision is.

MS M. ANDERSON: Thank you.

MRS. S. ANDERSON: Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Committee members, the next petition we'll deal with is Bill Pr. 7, the Scott Peter Lavery Adoption Act.

Good morning. Welcome. Mr. Reynolds will swear you in, and then we can get started.

[Mrs. Donna Bosma and Mr. Kenneth Bosma were sworn in]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you, Mr. Reynolds, and again welcome to the committee. Just a little bit of brief background. Your Bill has received first reading in the Legislature, and the Legislature has referred it to this Private Bills Committee for our deliberation and recommendation as to whether or not it should proceed to second and third reading. So that's the purpose of our meeting this morning.

The Private Bills Committee is comprised of all members of the Legislature, both opposition and government members. We have a good cross section on this committee geographically.

Just before we get started, I would like committee members to introduce themselves to you. We'll start with Mr. Pham.

MR. PHAM: Hung Pham, Calgary-Montrose. Good morning.

MR. HLADY: Mark Hlady, Calgary-Mountain View. Good morning.

MR. WICKMAN: Percy Wickman, Edmonton-Rutherford. Good morning.

MR. YANKOWSKY: Good morning. Julius Yankowsky, Edmonton-Beverly-Belmont.

MRS. LAING: Bonnie Laing, Calgary-Bow.

MR. AMERY: Moe Amery, Calgary-East.

MR. HERARD: Denis Herard, from your constituency.

MR. SEKULIC: Peter Sekulic, Edmonton-Manning. Good morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. And I'm Rob Renner, MLA for Medicine Hat and chairman of the committee.

With that, I think we can get started. I would like to give either or both of you an opportunity to address the committee and give some general background information about the Act. It's not necessary for you to stand. If you feel comfortable standing, that's fine. There are microphones built into your desk, so your voice will be picked up either way, standing or sitting. Whoever wants to start, go right ahead.

MR. BOSMA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm looking forward to hopefully getting your committee to send a positive recommendation to the Legislature on this Bill. We both look on Scott as our son. Over time -- and this is since 1976 -- I have in fact been his father; he calls me Dad. This is a situation that is now -- although it has been in existence for some long period of time, we wanted to legalize the relationship. The bonding and relationship have in fact gotten stronger since Scott's real dad passed away some years ago. He is now married, and in fact last week had a brand-new baby girl. That makes it from both Scott's perspective and my and Donna's perspective all the more important.

I wanted to tell you why Scott couldn't be here today. It's naturally because he lives on the coast, Vancouver Island. In addition, he's at home helping out as a brand-new dad. So, Mr. Chairman, I petition this committee to vote for a positive recommendation on this private member's Bill.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much. Mrs. Bosma, do you have anything you'd like to add? That's fine.

Committee members? Mr. Herard and then Mr. Amery.

MR. HERARD: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. The only question I have is: is there anyone you're aware of who would not be in favour of this Act?

MR. BOSMA: We're not aware of anyone. Of course, the advertising was completed as required. In addition, we have discussed this with all the family. So we can't think of anyone who could conceivably be opposed. Everyone in fact is very positive.

MR. HERARD: Thank you very much. Those are my questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Amery.

MR. AMERY: Yeah. I have a very simple question. How old is Scott now?

MR. BOSMA: Scott is now 29.

MR. AMERY: And has he lived with you since 1976?

MR. BOSMA: Well, he lived with us since 1976 until he got married.

MR. AMERY: I see. Have you made any attempts before to adopt him?

MR. BOSMA: No, we have not.

MR. AMERY: This is the first time?

MR. BOSMA: This is the first time.

MR. AMERY: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mrs. Laing?

MRS. LAING: No, that's fine. My question has been answered now, thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Any other questions at all? Mr. Reynolds, any points of clarification?

MR. REYNOLDS: I just want to advise the committee that the requirements of Standing Order 86 have been met with respect to advertising. There is a letter with the materials in the binder, a copy of a letter from Scott, dated January 29, 1994, indicating that he wishes to be adopted by Mr. Bosma. I have no questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

Mr. Pham.

MR. PHAM: I look at that letter and there is no witness. Is that considered a legal document?

MR. REYNOLDS: Well, yes. It's just in a letter to the committee.

MR. PHAM: Okay.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions at all?

MR. WICKMAN: Just on a lighter note. You mentioned a grandchild. Your first one?

MR. BOSMA: Mr. Chairman, it is not our first grandchild. We had children by separate marriages in the first instance, and we do have grandchildren.

MR. WICKMAN: They're a joy in life.

MR. BOSMA: They certainly are. It's kind of nice to have them visit.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, I don't see any other questions from the committee. Just to refresh your memory on what we had discussed, there is no decision made by the committee today. We will be convening on May 10 for deliberation, and it should be shortly after that date when you hear from Parliamentary Counsel on what our decision is.

I thank you for coming and wish you all the best.

9:00

MR. BOSMA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Herard and certainly Florence Marston for all her help.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The next Bill is Bill Pr. 12, the Travis Trevor Purdy Adoption Act.

[Mr. Travis Purdy and Mrs. Anna-May Woodley were sworn in]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Welcome to the Private Bills Committee.

Just before we get started, I'd like to update a little bit on where we stand and where your Bill stands right now. Your Bill has received first reading in the Legislature and was referred to this committee for our deliberation and for us to have an opportunity to interview you and find out a little more information about you and about the Bill. Then we are asked to make a recommendation back to the entire Assembly as to whether or not the Bill should proceed to second and third readings. So that's the purpose of our meeting this morning.

The Private Bills Committee is comprised of all parties in the Legislature. We have both opposition and government members from all around the province.

Before we get started, I think some self introductions would be in order so you get an idea where everyone is from. We'll start with Mr. Pham.

MR. PHAM: Hung Pham, Calgary-Montrose.

MR. HLADY: Mark Hlady, Calgary-Mountain View. Good morning.

MR. WICKMAN: I'm Percy Wickman, Edmonton-Rutherford. Good morning.

MR. YANKOWSKY: Good morning. Julius Yankowsky, Edmonton-Beverly-Belmont.

MRS. LAING: Bonnie Laing, Calgary-Bow.

MR. AMERY: Moe Amery, Calgary-East.

MR. HERARD: Denis Herard, Calgary-Egmont. Welcome.

MR. JACQUES: Good morning. Wayne Jacques, Grande Prairie-Wapiti.

MR. KIRKLAND: Good morning. Terry Kirkland, Leduc.

MR. SEKULIC: Peter Sekulic, Edmonton-Manning. Good morning.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I'm Rob Renner, chairman of the committee.

I've been negligent all morning in not introducing the other people at the Table, and they're probably the people you have been most involved with over the past little while in putting this together. Florence Marston is the assistant to the committee, and Rob Reynolds is Parliamentary Counsel.

With that, I think we can get started. At this point I would like to give either or both of you an opportunity to address the committee, to give a little bit of background information: why it is you're seeking this adoption and why you feel this committee should recommend to the Assembly that it proceed.

MRS. WOODLEY: Okay. I gave Travis up for adoption at birth, and we've recently been reunited. I found him without a home. His adopted family have given up on him, have just let him go, and I feel he needs a home. He needs a mother. He's got a brother and sister who have become quite attached to him. I just want the chance now to help him and guide him through his life and be with him for the rest of his life.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you.  
Travis, do you have anything you'd like to add?

MR. PURDY: No; it's pretty well summed up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thanks very much.  
Members of the committee, we'll open the floor up to questions.  
Mrs. Laing.

MRS. LAING: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. How many other children do you have, Mrs. Woodley?

MRS. WOODLEY: I have two.

MRS. LAING: Two.

MRS. WOODLEY: Sixteen and 14.

MRS. LAING: When did you become reunited with Travis?

MRS. WOODLEY: January 15 of this year.

MRS. LAING: This year. What was Travis doing? Are you at school or working or . . .

MR. PURDY: I'm a traveler. I work the carnivals and just travel around the country.

MRS. LAING: Okay. When did you last leave your adoptive home?

MR. PURDY: I have not been there for about three years now.

MRS. LAING: Three years.

MR. PURDY: I've had contact with my older sister in those three years. Lately there's been no contact with her at all.

MRS. LAING: Okay. Were you having difficulties with your adoptive family?

MR. PURDY: Very much so, yes.

MRS. LAING: Okay. Thank you.

MR. HERARD: It seems this is always a standard question I ask. Are you aware of anyone who would be against this taking place?

MR. PURDY: Not at the moment, no. The adoptive family is well aware of it. I have contacted Caraley, the oldest sister, and she has informed Liz and Don, the adoptive parents, of the proceedings. There has been no word from them. I tried to make contact last night with her husband, and as far as he knows, there is nobody objecting to it.

MR. HERARD: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pham.

MR. PHAM: Travis, when you left the adoptive family, were you 18 or were you still underage?

MR. PURDY: I was 15 at the time I left the adoptive family.

MR. PHAM: Fifteen at the time?

MR. PURDY: Yes.

MR. PHAM: What did you do during that time from 15 to 18? You say you were traveling.

MR. PURDY: Yes, I left three weeks before Christmas in '89, and until late January of 1990 I was under the care of social services as a temporary guardianship, which was to last for four months. I was not getting along at the group home I was placed in at the time, and that's when I started to travel.

9:10

MR. PHAM: How did you make your living?

MR. PURDY: I was doing odd jobs here and there: working for truck drivers, helping them load and unload; basically anything I could find.

MR. PHAM: What kind of education do you have, Travis?

MR. PURDY: Grade 8.

MR. PHAM: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Wickman.

MR. WICKMAN: A question, Mr. Chairman. Travis, how old are you?

MR. PURDY: I'm 20 years old.

MR. WICKMAN: Thanks.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With the permission of the committee, I have a question. We're in receipt of a copy of a letter from Family and Social Services, dated September 1993. I assume at that time, Mrs. Woodley, you had begun a search. Is that correct?

MRS. WOODLEY: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And how was it that you were able to find Travis? Had he also begun a search?

MRS. WOODLEY: Yes. I went through Parent Finders, and in September of last year Travis phoned Parent Finders looking for me. They made the connection and we ended up together.

MRS. LAING: Travis, what are your plans for the future now that you'll be reunited with your mom?

MR. TRAVIS: Presently I have an application to attend Lakeland College in the Cold Lake area for fall classes, hoping I'll be able to continue my education to grade 12 and further into NAIT for an electronics service degree.

MRS. LAING: Sounds good. I wish you well in your future.

MR. TRAVIS: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Any other questions from the committee? Mr. Reynolds, do you have any points of clarification for us?

MR. REYNOLDS: Just a few points. This is the other petition that required a waiver from the Assembly, and the reason was that the advertising had not been completed by the dates specified in the Clerk's notice. The advertising was, however, completed. It was advertised in the Grand Centre-Cold Lake *Sun* on February 22 and March 1, 1994, and in the *Alberta Gazette* on March 15, 1994. So the requirements of the advertising have been met; they're just delayed.

I just have one question, Mr. Chairman. Mrs. Woodley, when we spoke earlier or in the documents you had provided, you said initially that Travis' adoptive parents had washed their hands clean of him; then later you indicated there was some reticence to establish further contact with them. Perhaps you could expand on that.

MRS. WOODLEY: Okay. Travis obviously had no address, no phone number, so I was able to get in contact with his adoptive father to find out where he was. He had no idea even if he was in the province. Then I phoned him once more. In our first conversation he said he had the original adoption order which indicated my last name; therefore, I phoned him once more trying to get Travis on my husband's medical and dental plan through work, asking if I could get a copy of that order so I could prove he was my son. At that time he basically called me a liar, that he never said that. I phoned one more time asking for pictures of Travis as a child because he said, "If you need anything or want anything, give me a call," and I did. He told me that I was in no way, shape, or form ever to contact him again, that he'd washed his hands clean of Travis. He wanted nothing more to do with him -- if I wanted the trouble, I could have it -- and then he hung up the phone on me. That's the last contact I had with his adoptive family.

MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you. Those were my questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have one final question for Mrs. Woodley. The Act is in your name only. Is there any particular reason why you haven't included your husband in this adoption?

MRS. WOODLEY: Actually, my husband is quite for this. He's really excited about it with the rest of us. It's basically because Travis is mine. He wants to take on my maiden name, the Smith name, and he's basically attached to me. My husband is still quite happy to have him. He's all for it. It's just that the emotional ties are between him and me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: With regard to the name change, you are aware that this will not change the name?

MRS. WOODLEY: Yes, we are aware of it.

MR. PURDY: I've looked into that with vital statistics. We've got that all cleared up.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. Thank you.  
Mr. Pham.

MR. PHAM: How many children do you have?

MRS. WOODLEY: I have two children, a girl of 16 and a boy of 14.

MR. PHAM: How do they feel about this adoption?

MRS. WOODLEY: They're pretty happy. They've known about Travis since the beginning of their lives. I've had his baby picture on my dresser since I had him, and they've known all along that they had a big brother. Now they can really have their big brother. They're really happy.

MR. PHAM: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Kirkland.

MR. KIRKLAND: Just a comment, Mr. Chairman. Mrs. Woodley, I'm very impressed with your sincerity and compassion, and Travis, I think you're a very well-spoken young man. I wish you both the best.

MRS. WOODLEY: Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Seeing no other questions, I want to thank you for coming. The procedure we will be following is that we will not be making deliberations and decisions today. The committee will be convening on May 10 to deliberate all the various Bills that we have before us, yours included, so shortly after May 10 you should receive written notice from Parliamentary Counsel advising you what our decision is, realizing, of course, that we make a recommendation to the Legislature and the decision that comes out of this committee is not the final decision. However, our recommendation usually is taken very seriously by the Legislature.

With that, I want to also wish you all the best. Thank you for coming out this morning, and we'll probably be in contact shortly.

MRS. WOODLEY: Good. Thank you.

MR. PURDY: Thanks very much.

9:20

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, committee members, I have a couple of things I would like to discuss with regard to Pr. 5 and Pr. 6. First of all, Pr. 5 is the Suk Yin Poon Adoption Act. You should be in receipt of a letter that was received by Mrs. Marston indicating that the petitioners wish to have this Bill withdrawn. They do not wish to proceed at this time. It's my understanding that since this Bill has received first reading in the Legislature, it will be necessary for us as a committee to simply recommend that the Bill not proceed. If we do nothing, it stays on the Order Paper. So we have to take some action on this. I don't think we need to do it today, but when we deal with all our Bills, my suggestion will be that when we get to Pr. 5 we have a motion that the Bill not proceed and then it will go no further.

In the meantime, I will be contacting the sponsor of this Bill to make sure he is aware of what's going on. Other than that, I have nothing there. I just wanted to let you know what the process was going to be on that one.

Finally, next week we will be hearing Bill Pr. 6. This is the Gimbel Foundation Act. We also have one more adult adoption next week. So there are two things I want to make very clear to everyone. First of all, we need a very large turnout in the committee next week because there's going to be a good deal of debate and conversation on this Bill. Secondly, I need everyone here on time because I think we're going to be stretched for time next week. We

have the one adult adoption to deal with and that will probably take 10 or 15 minutes. I expect we'll need the rest of the time for Pr.6.

At this point we have heard from eight different organizations and individuals who have indicated they would like to appear as intervenors on this Bill. My feeling is that I'm going to have Ms Marston contact these people and indicate to them that they will be given a maximum of five minutes to address the committee; that would be 40 minutes. Also, with a maximum of 15 minutes for the petitioner, that would be 55 minutes, leaving us roughly an hour for questions. I just wanted to make sure I had the concurrence of the committee before I go ahead and do that. Does anyone have any objections to that?

MR. HERARD: Mr. Chairman, we can ask questions of the intervenors as well; can we not?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes. But I'm going to suggest that we not ask questions during their presentations, that we wait until all the presentations have taken place. They will all stay in the room, and then you can take notes and ask questions of anyone you wish. So that we ensure we hear from everyone, I'm not going to allow questions during their presentations. We'll have all the presentations and then move into questions.

MR. JACQUES: Have we requested, if possible, written submissions ahead of time from the intervenors?

MR. REYNOLDS: We've indicated to them that if they have written submissions, we'd like to receive 25 copies of them in advance. We haven't received anything yet from any of the intervenors, but it's my understanding there are supposed to be a few written submissions being sent in this week. Is that right, Florence?

MS MARSTON: Yes. That's been indicated to me on the telephone.

MR. REYNOLDS: Yeah.

MR. JACQUES: Thank you.

MR. PHAM: The intervenors: are they opposed, or do they support this Bill?

MR. CHAIRMAN: At this point we don't know. They haven't indicated either way. I suspect there are probably some of each.

Any other questions? Do I have the concurrence of the committee, then, to go head with that and advise the intervenors?

MRS. LAING: This is in regards to another matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay.

MRS. LAING: Do you wish me to wait or . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: That's fine. I don't have anything further on Pr. 6, so go ahead.

MRS. LAING: I just have a question of Parliamentary Counsel -- and I didn't want to bring it up in front of the couple -- with regards to the previous adoption. What is the legal requirement to undo that? With Travis, the first adoption and then the mom adopting him is like two adoptions. How do you disband the first one?

MR. REYNOLDS: Well, really the adult adoption would undo it. It's just like any other adoption. We've had ones before, I think, where there's been an adoptive parent intervening; they've been adopted once and they're being adopted again. You know, basically an adoption under the Child Welfare Act -- I think the Child Welfare Act only applies to people under 18. You know, there are legal rights that go along with it. This would serve as a new adoption. I mean, it's just the same as severing the rights between the natural parent, because the adoptive parent becomes the natural parent through the Act. So what you're doing here is no different than recommending an adoption of someone who wasn't adopted before but whose natural parents have cared for them. There's no difference there.

MRS. LAING: So a subsequent adoption voids the first one. Is that how it works? Just the legal point is what I was curious about.

MR. REYNOLDS: Since we're on the record here, perhaps I could discuss it with the committee . . . I'm just somewhat hesitant to give a legal opinion in *Hansard*.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Pham.

MR. PHAM: Can we move that we go in camera then?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay. It's moved by Mr. Pham that the committee go in camera. All in favour of that motion? Opposed? Carried.

[The committee met in camera from 9:27 a.m. to 9:32 a.m.]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have a motion by Mr. Wickman that the committee do now adjourn. All in favour?

HON. MEMBERS: Aye.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Opposed? Carried. The committee is adjourned. Thank you very much. See you next week first thing, bright and early at 8:30.

[The committee adjourned at 9:33 a.m.]

