

March 5, 1980

LB 749

support of the grandchild?

SENATOR NICHOL: Not necessarily under this bill, no.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are they required to do anything relative to assuming obligations and responsibility for the child's upkeep, welfare or health or education?

SENATOR NICHOL: Not under this bill?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Nichol. Members of the Legislature, when for any reason a child winds up with one parent and there is such animosity or hostility between the grandparent and the parent that the grandparent is to be kept away from the child, I believe the Legislature should wait a good amount of time before it enacts a bill like this. Where two parents are concerned, the custodial parent usually receives child support payments from the noncustodial parent. There is more to rearing children than just bouncing them up and down on your knee or appearing on a birthday or Christmas or Easter or one of the traditional days and making them think, oh, grandpa is Santa Claus and grandma is Mama Claus. Those things might sound good and persuasive in a very superficial discussion of the issue, but when you get deeply involved in the types of problems that can develop between mothers-in-law, fathers-in-law and whichever one the parent happens to be, you are on some very dangerous territory and I don't feel that grandparents have rights in the children. Now the parents have obligations and responsibilities but they don't even own the children. The way the situation is now in Nebraska I don't think there are any grandchildren who are diminished as a result of a bill like this not being in existence. Many times there is a tremendous gap between the grandparent and the grandchild in terms of attitudes, beliefs, philosophies and everything else. Sometimes well-intentioned outsiders can destroy a relationship between a parent and a child. Sometimes a no-good father can not see his children except on those traditional days and give more than the mother is able to give, always be smiling, always be mister good guy because he doesn't have to be there day after day to wipe noses, change diapers, or if the children are older, go to school when there is a problem there or even deal with law enforcement problems. So those who want to reap only the cream or enjoy the cream without any of the responsibilities I think are being somewhat unfair and short-sighted. I agree with Senator Hoagland's motion to kill this bill. I agree with the other comments that have been made against this bill, and

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