

and forth between parents and I discussed it with Senator Hannibal and I support the amendment. But I would like to just call attention to the fact that we are dealing with the lives of children and in visiting with a number of judges and a number of attorneys and a number of social workers, there are problems with joint custody and I have had some personal experience that causes me grave concern. So I am willing to try it. I think in some cases it may be the best solution and I would agree with Senator Hoagland that the judge ought to have a look at this because so oftentimes it may be a matter of convenience between the parents and I just think we have to have the welfare of the child must be foremost in everyone's mind, not the convenience of one parent or the other parent or even both parents. So I would support the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hannibal, then Senator Chambers.

SENATOR HANNIBAL: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, on the amendments to the committee amendments that Senator Hoagland has pointed out, two things that it is doing to the amendment, one is it is taking out the requirement that a primary residence be established automatically. I must point out to you it is not saying that that will not happen. In fact in most cases it does happen, it has happened in the past, but we're taking out that requirement that it must happen and rather leave it to the discretion of the courts to decide if that is in the best interests of the child. The second amendment that he is offering to the amendment says that it shall have a hearing, a hearing specifically for this purpose and that is again with the best interest of the child in the minds of the court. I would support the amendments to the amendment. I think it can do nothing but make it a better amendment and a better bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Hoagland is correct when he said a majority of the committee voted for this amendment. I strenuously opposed it in committee and I'll strenuously oppose it on the floor and I hate to be put in the position of always having to attack these bills out on the floor, but committees will send this kind of thing out here and those who believe in it strongly are willing to fight and take