

difficult to say, well, he won't say honey or sugar any longer, he'll say, well, he'll say, Mrs. So and So, you take care of the children and I'll have visitation. It's hard for him to say that and it's similarly, even though she may have a job, even though she may be out of the house more than she's in the house, it's difficult for her to say, look, I think you might be the better custodial parent so you take the children and I'll have visitation. I mean that kind of runs contrary to popular normative standards anyhow for a wife to in effect willingly cede away custody. So what happens is they compromise like we're given to compromise in the Legislature, but they are not compromising over a bill, they are not compromising over a statute, they are compromising over some human beings. They are compromising over children and the decision is we'll both have the custody and then we can avoid deciding the issue, we'll both have the custody. And, yes, the child or the children will live you, wife, for X number of months and you, husband, for Y number of months.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: And that's the way of kind of smoothing over or patching over a real thorny and knotty problem. Virtually every psychiatrist who has examined the rearing of children has concluded that in the single parent context the better part of valor is to make certain that the single parent knows that he or she has the unadulterated authority over that child, total responsibility for that child. And if there is somebody else who can come into that picture on an at will basis that tends to undermine that authority and that responsibility and that accountability and ultimately works a hardship on the parent and the child. So, and I can give you a book, you know, what is it, I can't remember the name of the book. It's by Anna Freud, Toward Meeting the Needs of Children, I think that's the title of it, where she and others specifically recommend that in custody cases, I mean we almost grant exclusive custody with very limited visitation to a custodial parent and again it is for the well-being of the child. So I think that the amendment, while I can appreciate it being offered...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...the committee amendment is not good. The amendment to the amendment is okay.