

believe that Senator Johnson in his concise fashion did a more than adequate job. Let me say quickly that the bill as introduced would have allowed a grandparent to intervene in a happy marriage or in a happy situation. As Senator Withem indicated a moment ago as we were discussing this, the bill as introduced would allow my mother to file a lawsuit if she didn't feel that we were allowing the children to see her often enough, or if she objected to the fact that we were planning to spend...take our kids to Boston over Thanksgiving weekend and I don't think the original sponsors intended to do that. So by way of committee amendments, what we have done is we have attempted to follow this concept in the bill and we were not entirely successful in effectuating this concept and I have a couple of amendments to the committee amendments that will do it in a more thorough fashion. In any event, the concept is that if you have a set of grandparents who is locked out of a visitation situation, (a) because of a divorce, (b) because of a death, or (c) because there has never been a marriage, why they would be entitled to do it. But we are talking only about the grandparents of the parent of the child who does not have custody in the first situation, who has died in the second situation, and who does not have custody in the situation of their never having been married. Now let me explain to you exactly what I mean. Let's say Barbara and I get divorced and she gets custody of the child. Under the committee amendments her grandparents would not have any right under this law because it is their daughter that has custody of the child, but my parents would. That is the concept of the committee amendment. In a situation where somebody has...one or another of the parents has died, only the grandparents of the deceased parent would have an opportunity to get visitation. The grandparents of the nondeceased parent, the living parent that has the kids, would not be entitled to relief under this proposal. Finally, in a situation where they have never been married before, where the couple has never been married, presumably the mother in nine cases out of ten will have the child. Only the parents of the father would be entitled to seek visitation under this. If the parents of the mother who has custody does not get along with the mother, if the grandparents and the mother don't get along in a situation where the mother has custody, we do not intend to provide relief. So that is an important distinction I think. It is important to understand how the committee amendments work. Now the other major change of the committee amendments is