

that it requires a significant relationship already be in existence between the grandchild and the grandparent before the grandparent is entitled to visitation. Now the reasons for that are obvious. If there is no relationship between the grandparent and the child, why then it is not in the child's best interest to have visitation with the grandparents in most situations any more than it is in the child's best interests to have visitation with anyone else the child doesn't know. So the first restriction we put on visitation is that there must be an existing relationship and the purpose of that is to tie it back to the concept of what is in the best interest of the child. That is the controlling principal here, what is in the best interest of the child. The second restriction is that it be in the best interest of the child. The third restriction is that it not interfere with the child-parent relationship in a significant way. And the purpose of that is because when situations deteriorate to such an extent that the only alternative a grandparent has is to seek court intervention, to ask the government to help him with his problem of not being able to see the grandchild, why then we want to be sure that if the court is going to grant visitation, it is not going to hurt the child by way of interfering with the relationship with the parent. And in many of these cases there is going to be an enormous amount of acrimony before a grandparent decides to resort to court and if that acrimony is such that the visitation is going to interfere with the relationship between the child and the parent, why then it should not be allowed because once again it is not going to be in the child's best interest in the end to force visitation in a situation like that. So that, Mr. President, is what we have attempted to do with the committee amendments. Again, we acted hastily in committee. We put the bill out. We had a meeting and put the bill out in response to a motion to pull the bill out on the floor. So I think that the committee amendments do need some further refinement. I have some amendments up there to do that and I believe Senator Beutler does as well. And with that, Mr. President, I would be pleased to attempt to answer questions anyone might have about the rewritten bill which constitutes the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT: There is an amendment on the desk to the committee amendments.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Hoagland would move