

What if some parent is not giving custody to a grandparent because of strong religious beliefs? A born again family versus a more traditional Christian setting, or no Christian setting at all. How is the judge to decide what is in the best interests of the child in that case where the parents say, I don't want them going into that kind of a family? It gets very complicated. That is not the point I wanted to make. I am saying that by way of indicating to you that this is not the...this is not all white. This is white and black and it deserves careful and prolonged debate. And I think that if there has been any abuse of the rules, and I don't want to use that expression particularly because everybody has the right to try what they can do within the framework of the rules, but if there has been any stretching of the rules, it hasn't been on the part of those who are characterized as filibustering. It has been on the part of those who have somehow succeeded in getting this item onto the agenda even though they didn't think enough of it to declare it a priority bill, didn't even think enough of it to ask the Speaker to declare it a priority bill. So I, myself, will not be voting to overrule the Speaker's agenda.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vickers and then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I would just like to remind the body that about an hour and twenty minutes ago or so when I offered a motion to bracket this bill, I told you this was what was going to happen. So it shouldn't come as any surprise to anybody and I don't consider it necessarily a filibuster but I told you at the time that there was enough interest and enough concern about this bill that enough amendments could be put up because I think the bill needs to have a lot of work on it if, in fact, it ever advances. And I, for one, am not afraid of having the papers say that I tried to hold the bill up, because I have and I will continue to. And if it comes up on Select File, if Senator Chambers, as Senator Beutler indicated, might talk an hour, I am not as articulate as Senator Chambers, but I can assure you I can talk for a little while and I will because I am opposed to the bill. That is what we were elected and sent in here to do and I don't apologize for it a minute. I think it is ridiculous to get in this situation. I thought so to start with and I think Senator Beutler's points about the priority bill system had ought to be listened to. We are making a mockery out of our rules. If that is what this body wants to do, so