

there is already a lot of difficulties and a lot of hard feelings. But to put into this same mechanism the fact that if your own child was not willing to make the commitment to get married, then you have the right to take somebody to court and get some rights, as far as a grandparent is concerned, I think is totally wrong. Now like Senator Chambers, I, too, am a grandparent. I understand the relationship between grandchild and grandparent. But I'll tell you if one of my sons had fathered a child and not had the commitment to become married, to marry the mother, then to put me in a position where I could take that...drag that mother into court and demand some rights as a grandparent, I think, is totally wrong. I think we...if I want that right then I had ought to raise my own children up in a way that they are going to make the commitment themselves. Now this is a total...I think this is a different issue than the total concept of divorce and what happens following divorce. I'll speak to that later. But for this narrow issue of whether or not a grandparent had ought to have a right, a biological grandparent have a right to drag somebody into court when their own child, the parents, have never been married, I think is an issue that this Legislature ought to totally reject. So I ask you to reject this portion of the Johnson-Hoagland amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Chambers, then Senator Landis.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I speak in accord with what Senator...or I support what Senator Vickers just said. I'm in total accord with his statements. We have to look at realities. There is a situation that this particular provision deals with where two young people, maybe through inadvertence, mistake, getting carried away in passion, or actually thinking they are in love, or being prevented by their parents from marrying, but whatever the circumstances there are two people who parent a child. And the grandparents, who are in an adversarial relationship, are trying to get the courts to let them come into a bad situation and say let me put my heavy hand into this situation and make it worse. This has all of the earmarks of the state manufacturing a killing. Young people are more volatile, in some situations, than older people. You have young people, or a young person who is hostile toward these grandparents, maybe both young people are hostile to both of their sets of parents. They may have been interfered with by their respective set of