

specific part of this particular bill and that is the part that relates only to those children who are from a couple who have never been married and whether or not the grandparent or grandparents of that child should have the right to petition the court for grandparent visitation rights. Now, remember, we are talking about an adversarial situation. In the circumstances Senator Hoagland just pointed out to you, just suggested to you, if in fact there was no adversarial situation, the grandparents wouldn't have to petition the court. The grandparents could still see the grandchild. But ask yourself if you are an unwed mother, or one of your daughters is, or a niece is, or whatever, and the father has never ever contributed anything, it might not have been a seven year commitment to live together, as Senator Hoagland just mentioned. It might have been a one night stand, for crying out loud. It can happen. Now down the road some place this young lady is trying to raise this child the best she can, and all of a sudden here comes somebody from the court and they say, you know, we're going to drag you into court because so-and-so over here, and I disagree with Senator Chambers, they may not be older people. I'm a grandparent and I don't consider myself quite older people yet, maybe I am, I don't know. But the fact is somebody is going to drag her into court saying we want visitation rights. She never saw them before. The kid hasn't even saw them before. And we're going to say we're going to force this child to have a relationship? Now Senator DeCamp, Senator Wesely, Senator Lynch, others have said we've got to do something to help the family. I agree, but you can't legislate that. You can't put in statutes something that says this child, who is feeling unloved, is suddenly going to be loved because we did something in the statutes. That is baloney. You can't say that in statute and have it happen. I think we had ought to be concerned about the children. But as far as this narrow issue is concerned, if these people don't want to make the commitment to get married, and if you haven't raised your children so that they are willing to make that commitment, then I think you've given up something yourself, and you had ought not be able to petition a court to have visitation rights as a grandparent if there has never been any marriage. So I ask you to vote no. I ask you to vote no on the adoption of this portion of the amendment. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: I misspoke, Senator Vickers. You were actually not closing, since it was not your motion. The