

they happen when two parents are divorced and one is given visitation rights. So the lawyers can see a gold mine, but at the same time their activities will not serve a wholesome societal function by strengthening the family. Litigation never improves a situation. It punishes one person or, by giving damages, rewards another. But after the litigation there is never a better feeling than existed before it. If Senator Lynch and these others, who have spoken so eloquently, to use that overworked term, and I include Senator Don Wesely in that, are really concerned, as they say they are, about the family and the child, why give a financial incentive to lawyers to stir up additional litigation in the realm of domestic relations. There is nothing in addition to what I've said, that I can think of, that might bear on the issue. So I'm asking that you strike this language because if you want to look at it only in terms of those rights that a parent enjoys, as opposed to those that others enjoy, you are giving others a greater right than the parents themselves, and I think it is improper.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Vickers, then Senator Barrett.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, I would simply like to rise to support Senator Chambers in this motion and would hope that the majority of you were listening to his arguments. It does not make any sense to me that we give a right to a grandparent that a parent doesn't have, number one. Number two, I think we need to recognize that in most cases the parents or parent, if it is a single parent, has enough financial difficulties as it is raising a child. There was just an article, just recently, in one of the papers talking about the cost of raising a child in today's society. They've got enough difficulties without putting the grandparent in the position to, because of some unfortunate circumstances, asking for visitation rights, then getting a monetary judgement against the parent as well in carrying out those duties in the court. I think that is total'y wrong. I would hope you would support Senator Chambers in the rejection of this particular section.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Barrett, please.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President and members. There is no question that this issue an emotionally charged