

happen and the grandparents are well to do people and they hail that woman into court and the woman has got to take time off work to defend her interests. The woman doesn't have the money to hire a lawyer, you know. In the end that breeds acrimony between the woman and the grandparents rather than promote the kind of harmony that we really ought to have in the family relationship. It is best to leave this whole area in a consensual relationship, to let the parent work it out with the grandparents and the child and not to interpose a court at all. We are intruding improperly, in my opinion, on one of the most sacred and personal relationships that exists in society, the family relationship.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly. I'm sorry. Senator Nichol and then Senator Kelly and then Senator Murphy.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, Senator Johnson usually speaks wisely of the law and has much knowledge of the law and if he would look at this bill again he would see that there is absolutely no intrusion on the rights of the parents, absolutely none. The court would consider these things anyway that he is talking about. The court is the one who decides. The court would make their decision on the best interest of the child. Now what is wrong with that? And that is what they do now. They make their decision on the best interest of the child. Senator Johnson apparently has not read the bill or apparently does not understand it and certainly a man of his intelligence in the law would see that the court "may". It doesn't say that they "shall" or must, of course not, and Senator Johnson says he will guarantee that there will be problems. He can't guarantee a darn thing. It isn't true. It will not make problems. It will solve problems. Now I can understand, since Senator Johnson is a younger man, doesn't appreciate what a grandparent's role is in young children's lives and where the judge feels that it is to the best interest to the child. Let me emphasize that and that is what the judge should do is make these decisions on the best interests of the child. I think Senator Johnson's remarks are entirely erroneous and I think this is a good bill.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: All right, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, as we are running out of time I would move the question so we could advance the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Do I see five hands for the question? I see