

of years ago, I have to talk about how reluctant we truly are in the end to interfere with family relationships. A number of years ago a married woman went to court in Colfax County to ask the court to require her husband to meet her marital financial needs. Her husband was a well to do farmer and he just didn't give her enough money to really make ends meet. He certainly didn't give her enough money to run the kind of household that she thought she ought to have. The District Court agreed with her. The District Court said, yes, you are absolutely right. Your husband is a miser. Your husband is an ogre, and in fact, we are going to order your husband to start paying more money to you for your household expenses. Now that case was appealed ultimately to the Nebraska Supreme Court. The Nebraska Supreme Court reversed that case. The Nebraska Supreme Court said, in the absence of a divorce, in the absence of a legal separation, the lower court had no business telling the husband how much money to pay to his wife. There are some relationships into which we do not intrude, and the marriage relationship was one of those. If there was a divorce then you could enter support orders, but when you have got an intact family you can't do it. Now this Beutler amendment is analogous because the Beutler amendment would say that with respect to an intact family, a two-parent family, a grandparent could come in and ask the court to establish visitation rights because it might be in the best interests of the child. That is an untoward intrusion upon family life and should be rejected immediately.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, I would object to the Beutler amendment also. It is not our intention to draw everyone into court. Where things are going well in a family we don't want to create any additional legal expense, attorney expense, court expense, so I ask that you reject the Beutler amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I would just like to make a brief observation, Mr. Speaker, to illustrate what a bad bill this is. Both Senator Johnson and Senator Nichol have said, look, if things are going well in the family, why interrupt things. Well, right now the way the bill is written things can be going well in the family and one of the parents can suffer a tragic death at sea like Senator Lamb does, yet suddenly things are going badly enough so the parents can haul the surviving spouse into