

March 5, 1980

LB 749

an area where we have not given them power before. We are extending the number of judges in this state because of increased court load. There are bills to do that. I would suggest that this bill and the concept that is involved is going to further increase the workload of the court as they try and make decisions that before have been family decisions. It is strange that the conservatives of the Legislature are the ones that are saying that we must have government interfere into the family, that the courts now must reach in and make a decision that before was purely personal. I think that is an overreaching of government. It is easy to be sympathetic to grandparents and their needs but I think that the family itself has to be protected. I do not think that we should ask the courts of our state to start making decisions as to who children should and shouldn't see. I think that right should maintain with parents. So I support the kill motion. I think this is a major extension of the powers of the court. It is creating a new right where there has been no right before, and it is directing that right at only single parents and there are many situations where grandparents are not allowed visitation when the couple is married and there are reasons that families decide not to have grandparents' visitation and I think whether they are single or married, it is not the position of the court to interfere with that decision. I support the kill motion.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. Speaker, I call for the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed vote no. Shall debate cease is the issue before the House. Have you all voted? Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. Speaker, there are 25 not voting and if we are going to transact business this afternoon we are going to have to get the people on the floor anyway so I am going to call for a Call of the House. Not that I feel that intense about whether debate ceases or not but I think it is important that we get enough members on this floor to transact business. A Call of the House.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question before the House is, shall the House go under Call? All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record.

CLERK: 9 ayes, 2 nays to go under Call.

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