

March 5, 1980

LB 749

heard at the committee hearing on this thing. Take a look at the committee report. We don't have any judges there. We don't have any psychologists or social workers or specialists there. We don't have any of the dozens of dozens of people that are involved in the thousands of child custody disputes we have around in the State of Nebraska every year. The only people that testified at the hearing on this bill is Josephine Devlin of Omaha and Edith Morris of Lincoln and that is it. No other proponents, no other opponents. We really haven't taken a hard enough look at what this bill does. Now Senator Nichol says that I am complaining about not including lawyers. Well, that is exactly the opposite of what I am doing. I am trying to keep the lawyers out, because what this law is going to do is it is going to bring lawyers and it is going to bring judges and it is going to bring the government right into the most intimate of any of all the kind of relationships we have, the family relationships. This is going to create a whole new set of circumstances where lawyers and judges can take people to court and complain, complain because a grandparent and a grandchild isn't getting along or because a parent and a child isn't getting along. Now is that going to solve any of our problems for us? Is it going to solve any of our problems at all? Of course it is not, and before making a major change like this, let's take a good hard look at what we are doing and, believe me, this is a major change in the law because we are elevating that grandparent-grandchild relationship in this narrow area to the equivalent of a parent-child relationship and they are completely different. They always have been different. For a hundred years in Nebraska history they have been different and let's don't make this kind of change now, and as Senator Fowler pointed out, if this bill passes, we are going to have one set of rules for people that are married. All right, if you are married and you have a two parent family, grandparents can't take you to court no matter what the problem is involving child custody, but suddenly if you become single, if you become single because of death or you become single because of divorce, why you are opening up the courts, the Cadillac grandparents can come down with their lawyer and Senator Nichol is going to have more lawyers intruding themselves into family relationship in this state than any of us are going to want. So without taking this basic step, let's take a harder look at it. Let's ask this bill be reintroduced next year and have a full and complete hearing and let's kill it today. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the indefinite postponement of LB 749. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no.