

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Yes, Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator Chronister, could you refresh my memory and tell me why you did exclude the provision that the guardian ad litem shall forthwith personally investigate the facts and circumstances on all matters pertinent to the best interest and welfare of the children?

SENATOR CHRONISTER: I think the feeling, Senator Pirsch, was that it wasn't necessary, that the court could make that determination, and in the interest of saving time and not having a lengthy drawn out procedure, that it would be of benefit to everyone concerned.

SENATOR PIRSCH: But the court still has to appoint a guardian ad litem?

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Yes, a guardian ad litem is appointed but he is not authorized to make an investigation.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Wasn't one of the problems that the guardian ad litem was not actually doing that, was not actually gathering personal information in those family situations, wasn't that one of the problems?

SENATOR CHRONISTER: That could very well be although I am not certain of that point so it may be that they are also eliminating it because it wasn't being done in the first place, but it was also an attempt I think to shorten the process so that it wasn't dragged out, that the children involved were taken care of sooner in this way. I think that was his sincere attempt.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Senator Chronister. I know that the children protection groups are concerned that enough time would be taken that the personal family situation would be examined more closely than it is now, when we direct the guardian ad litem to personally investigate the facts and one of their complaints was that this was not being done. So I really question the fact that we take it out of the law just because it is not being enforced and I think we should look very carefully at that point, should we make sure that the guardian ad litem is personally investigating or is it just a friend in court who has no real personal interest or investigation into that family situation, and that I feel really bears some investigation and some real thinking on the part of the legislators. I will be very interested in seeing the amendments that Senator Johnson and Senator Landis will present and I hope that you will give this your close perusal also. Thank you.