

the meddlesome ways that some grandparents can have in a situation like this and the child, just as the child can become a point of negotiation or means to get even between two warring parents, the child can become the bone of contention between a grandparent of the child and the custodial parent of the child. It always arises where the grandparents, as Senator Wesely pointed out, are the parents of the parent who has died. There is bad blood between the grandparents and the custodial parent. So what we are trying to do here with such a bill is to say that the Legislature should intrude into this domestic situation and make it worse by giving the grandparents of the child a hammer to hold over the head of the custodial parent. I think most of the senators, I'm sure those on the Judiciary Committee got a copy of the letter where a lady had a husband who died. The parents of the husband then came in and had all of the stuff taken from the farm and referred to their son who was now deceased as their number one worker or farmhand or something like that. So they felt they had a right to take everything that was on the farmstead and they had gotten a good deal of it and one time the lady had to call law enforcement officials to stop these grandparents of the child from taking additional property. So then the grandfather of the child came over with the tractor and plowed under some clover seed which was of no profit to him and no benefit to the mother of the child. So it reached a situation where the child finally got to the age of seven years old and suddenly the grandparents were interested in this child and wanted to be able to compel the custodial parent to let them deal with this child. The child did not want to be bothered with the grandparents, did not know the grandparents, so even if you had a bill like this and there could be assurances offered on this floor that a court might in the best interest of the child not allow this type of grandparent to have visitation rights, nevertheless, a litigation has been initiated. There still is the full blown hearing. There is a presentation of evidence by both sides. The child has to be brought into this in a formal courtroom setting and I think it is not wise at all. It is not a bill aimed at the interest of the child. It is something to give the old people a thing to play with. I know that I, myself, one day will have grandchildren. Perhaps I will fall out with the custodial parent but I have not conducted myself in such a way as to be on good relationships with the mother or father of my grandchild, then that is a failing on my part and I should not be allowed to use the courts to intervene. I'm opposed to the motion.

PRESIDENT: Alright, now the time is up on the bill, so, Senator Wesely, you may close. We'll give you...the way as I understand it, now the ten minutes are up so you may now close on your motion.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, I'll be very brief. I understand Senator Chambers' opposition to the bill but I do