

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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committee amendments. (FA270, Legislative Journal page 422.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Chambers, you're recognized to open on your motion to amend the committee amendments to LB 120.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'm now going to go into this bill in detail by way of amendments. On page 1 of the committee amendment, in line 8, I would strike the word "shall" and insert "may". Then it would say, "the court may take into consideration the importance of the parents' necessary schedules", and so forth. Let me mention something about that grandparents' rights bill. Some people went to the U.S. Supreme Court and a lot of people said, well, there are a lot of grandparents on the U.S. Supreme Court, so this is a slam-dunk, but it went the other way because there are some grandparents and do recognize the parents. That case may not go the way the grandparents who brought it want it to go. Now let me bring it close to home. I fought against that grandparents' right bill. There is a family, whose last name was Pelican, who wanted it, I'll never forget it. Bob Kerrey, the one you all idolize, the ones you all have turned into a demigod, was the Governor. You know when I stopped fighting the bill, he told me he was going to veto it if it passed. Yeah, good old strong, moral Robert Kerrey. And then when it got on his desk he "wimped" out and he signed it. And he has never denied that he promised he was going to veto it. That's the Bob Kerrey that you all think is so great. Well, I had dealings with him, and I know the contrary to be true. So why do I bring it up now? Because I have always resisted the kinds of bills that had the state intruding into the most intimate family relationships, and especially when there is contention. And somebody who can be called an interloper wants the power of the state behind him or her, to back him or her in saying I'm going to reinstate you in this family situation and make it work. And, whether it works or not, that's the way it's going to be, because I have the power to do it and I'm going to do it and, by God, I'm going to force it. But some of the people on this floor who are arguing most strongly for this bill, if you tried to dictate to them, try to dictate something to Dan Lynch that he doesn't like, try it. And see if he'll roll over and say, well, that's the way it is, so okay, you can make me do this and I'll do it. Oh no! Maybe he would, I don't believe it, but he