

# 'NO-FAULT PLAN' LIKE CALIFORNIA'S

## New Divorce Idea Wins Round

Times Wire Services

TALLAHASSEE — "Callion plan" and "no-fault plan" have become familiar terms concerning insurance in Florida but now the terms may be applied to another, also problem-plagued area — divorce.

A new divorce concept, allowing a couple to sever the ties that bind them to an unhappy marriage without blaming either spouse, was approved Tuesday by the Florida House Judiciary Committee.

Sending an omnibus marriage and divorce bill to a

subcommittee headed by Rep. Don Nichols, D-Jacksonville, for touchup work, the full committee endorsed these major concepts:

- ✓ No-fault divorce whereby the parties would declare the marriage "irretrievably broken." A judge would have to dissolve the marriage but not

requiring anyone wishing to get married to undergo pre-marital counseling first. The program would be directed especially at teenagers.

- ✓ Increased opportunities for divorced men to get custody of their children, and allow money to divorced women only for so long as needed to train them for jobs.
- ✓ Retention of 21 as the age of marriage without parental consent, and 18 as the

(See DIVORCE, 3-B)

# 'No Fault' Divorces

## Proposed

TALLAHASSEE (UPI) — A "no fault" divorce law was proposed Monday by State Rep. Don Nichols, D-Jacksonville.

It would eliminate the necessity for either party to charge the other with misconduct in order to obtain a divorce.

"Divorce is a very unhappy experience," he said. "I see no reason to make it even more so by requiring one party to accuse the other in order to get one."

"It's time we left the horse and buggy days and move into the 20th century."

The proposal is part of a proposed uniform marriage and divorce act which Nichols will present to the House Judiciary Committee today.

He called the package more of a "vehicle we can build on" than a panacea.

reaching change in the bill if included, would be a good reason for waiving the limit. The concept of no-fault divorce — a term committee members said they abhorred and would try to replace at a later date — passed through the group with surprisingly little opposition.

### WITHOUT MENTIONING

men's lib," the subcommittee also planned consideration of a provision that would give a father equal right to custody of the children of a broken marriage.

Nichols, the omnibus bill sponsor, said the present adversary divorce system is "really a hypocritical type thing." "It appears to me when a man and wife agree their marriage is irretrievably broken and they're not going to live together any more," Nichols said, "the court ought to be able to enter a decree if it so finds without them having to come in and tell all this dirty stuff."

He said the bill was intended to make the painful experience of divorce a bit more humane. "HOLY WEDLOCK should not be allowed to continue as unholy wedlock," he said, and a husband and wife ought not have to humiliate themselves in court in order to shed a mate.

The law, if adopted, would leave two grounds for divorce: irreconcilable differences and incurable insanity. Nichols said there were 34,600 divorces in Florida in 1969, and other members said the overwhelming majority were uncontested. Committee members agreed that pre-marital counseling, which could be the most far

19 195