

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. The controversy of studded snow tires is one that has been raised off and on for a number of years. It just seems to me that if we're concerned about decent roads, which is what I think one of the premises is supposed to be for the purpose of raising the gasoline tax, although that was not what was discussed the other day, but it is the major one that I support, and that is why I voted in support of the bill. If we're concerned about decent roads then we must be aware of the fact that certainly studded snow tires cause some damage to roads. I believe very strongly in studded snow tires. I use them myself. I think that there is a definite safety factor in using studded tires. But at the same time I do realize that that perhaps is a privilege, it's a right that an individual has, not a right, but it's a privilege that they have, whether or not they wish to use them. In doing so they are, in fact, putting some wear and tear on the roads of the state. Rather than outlaw studded snow tires, which I think would be going the wrong direction.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett, state your point.

SENATOR BARNETT: I rise to ask the Chair to make a ruling whether the studded snow tires amendment that he's offering is germane to the gasoline tax. That is all I'm asking.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Just a moment please. It has been the Chair's position to interpret these things as broadly as possible. I'm going to sustain the point of order and say that the amendment is not germane to the bill. Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: I will object.

PRESIDENT: Alright. Read the next amendment.

SENATOR SIMON: Excuse me, Mr. Chairman. I'm going to object a little more strenuously than that. I can ask that the Chair be overruled, can't I?

PRESIDENT: Oh, yes, you can do that.

SENATOR SIMON: I will do that then.

PRESIDENT: Okay. That is the question.

SENATOR SIMON: You didn't just expect me to lay down on this, did you?

PRESIDENT: What?

SENATOR SIMON: Did you expect me to just go to sleep on this?

PRESIDENT: Well if you object that is what you've done.

SENATOR SIMON: Yes, I object. I would make a motion to overrule the decision of the Chair.

PRESIDENT: Alright. Record your vote. The question is, shall the Chair be overruled. The Chair ruled that Senator Simon's amendment was out of order, for it was not germane to the bill. Have you voted? Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 9 ayes, 22 nays to overrule the Chair.