

However, because of your action yesterday on the Speaker's ruling, it appeared to me that you wished to have a broader concept of germaneness than is ordinarily handled in this body. Now I learned a long time ago that germaneness means whether this body, whether the majority members of this body want to discuss that amendment or not. It doesn't make a heck of a lot of difference whether it is germane or not, because if the body wants to talk about it then they should have the opportunity to discuss it. So, with the two sides as it is, I am going to rule that the amendment is germane and you can go from there, deciding whether you want to take the broad concept or the strict rule. Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: I would move to overrule the Chair on that.

PRESIDENT: All right, and you may state why, if you like.

SENATOR ASHFORD: The legislation proposed by Senator Lamb is sweeping. It abolishes a school district with 5,000 students in it without a public hearing. It affects, dramatically, the citizens of that district, the teachers who teach in that district and the students who attend Westside High School and the junior high schools and elementary schools in District 66. Such a dramatic, sweeping piece of legislation should not be enacted without a public hearing. It is not germane to what LB 444 is trying to do. It may...the effect of it may be, at some point, consolidation. But that is only the effect, and it is not at all related to what LB 444 is trying to do. I would... I could go into it further, Mr. President, but for those reasons I would ask that...move that your ruling be overruled.

PRESIDENT: All right, thank you. Senator Goodrich, please. I have many lights on. But if you wish to speak on the germaneness, please raise your hand. Thank you. Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, you, yourself read the germaneness rule. According to your own words, and I agree with the words you used that said clearly, according to the rule itself this is not germane. However, you take it one step further than that which says, in essence, it is whatever the body wants to talk about. Well, that is up to the body to decide. That isn't up to the germaneness ruling, because you have to rule according to the actual interpretation of the rule itself. Consequently, if we would open this up to say, in