

the fact that we've had a ruling this session that Senator Hall just reminded me about, about germaneness and exactly what happens when a question is divided and what should occur then, whether the individual portions of the amendment can be deemed germane or not germane as opposed from the amendment in toto. I filed the rules proposal that would specify that a divided amendment, if the amendment prior to a division was germane, that all the individual components of the amendment are germane as well. And I think although that is not exactly on point with respect to what we're talking about here, it dovetails well with it. I think what we need to do is take a look at exactly what division means and what role we want it to play because, essentially, if the Chair is overruled, we're saying that what division means is that once you've reached your eight hours, then all those divided amendments collapse back into one and a vote is taken on that division, and I guess it troubles me to an extent. I can certainly understand where the people that are advising us to overrule the Chair are coming from, but at the same time I'm concerned that that, in fact, might take the purposes of dividing the question and make them ineffective, in essence. So I would, with some concern, but I would essentially ask you to uphold the Chair on this.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Madam President and members of the body, I rise, quite frankly, without the slightest idea of how I'm going to vote on whether to overrule the Chair or not, and I may well take the coward's way out that some of my predecessors did and that's simply not vote on the motion. I remember Senator Baack was always very good at motions to overrule the Chair and not voting on those. I do rise though, hopefully, I can add something about the process that we're going through right now and add maybe some explanation because I know some members are concerned about what exactly it is that we are doing. And I would commend the Chair on the way in which she is handling the debate. I think this is the appropriate way in which to do this. And let me kind of walk through what it is we're doing and why I think we're following the proper process to let the body make a determination on what is a very ambiguous statement in our rules, and were the Chair not allowing this process to take place which well would be in her rights to not allow, based on previous precedent, we would not get to that sort of a discussion, that sort of a decision here tonight. The normal process with cloture, and I hope after this is done we will