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April 6, 2004      LB 670, 874, 875, 943, 987

SENATOR THOMPSON:      I would like to request a ruling on germaneness, please.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Senator Thompson, would you inform the body and the Chairman...the Chair why you think this particular amendment offered by Senator Foley is not germane?

SENATOR THOMPSON:      Thank you. Consulting the Rule Book, germane amendments relate only to details of the specific subject of the bill and must be in a natural and logical sequence to the subject matter, and I don't believe this is in a natural and logical sequence.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Okay. Thank you, Senator Thompson. Senator Foley, you may respond.

SENATOR FOLEY:      Thank you, Mr. President. The underlying bill, LB 943, you might recall was amended on General File and it now encompasses, how many, four, five, six bills offered by different senators. For example, it encompasses LB...well, LB 943 of course was the original bill, which was priority bill number 42, relating to the statute of limitations. It was amended to include LB 987, which was a nonpriority bill creating the offense of criminal offense of strangulation; amended to include LB 875, another nonpriority bill regarding the possessing of visual depiction of sexually-explicit conduct with a child. It was amended to include LB 874, which redefines the term "sexual contact"; amended to include LB 670 regarding certain computer crimes; and now amended here on Select File with Senator Chambers' bill regarding assault of an inmate. With all of those bills having been added to LB 943, the bill now cuts a very wide swath through our criminal code and encompasses a wide variety of criminal measures. The amendment that I'm offering fits squarely within the parameters of that swath of territory and clearly is germane to the bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK:      Thank you, Senator Foley. The Chair does rule that the amendment is not germane. The Thompson amendment deals with statute of limitations, whereas the bill amended onto it deals primarily with new criminal offenses. So I do rule that...Senator Foley, what purpose do you...?