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LB 531

We went through this issue several years ago. I will remind you of that.

PRESIDENT: Now that does raise more of a question, however. . .

SENATOR KOCH: That does make it not germane. This is a disease we have the last nine days of the session every year.

PRESIDENT: Unless it can be stated as the same constitutional amendment affecting the legislature, you are right, and sometimes they have split, as you know Senator Koch, sometimes they have split the question, but it has been constitutional amendment. I'm perplexed as to that one too as to whether or not they would rule you could divide the constitutional question as to the two under one constitutional amendment since it is in the same general area. Senator Beutler, would you wish to carry on your questioning of the germaneness.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I was just interested Mr. Speaker on what the basis of your ruling would be in the event you are going to rule that it is germane. I mean it does not have to do with legislative salaries or compensation. On what basis therefore is it germane?

PRESIDENT: Well they are both in the same article of the Constitution, as I just indicated in the past they have taken, you must understand that the Chair admits he is prejudiced in this particular matter, cause I would not like to see this on the ballot, but I will say that to you very forthrightly. But the point is I think when it is in the same article of the Constitution there is the possibility of dividing the issue on the ballot as to the two concepts in the same article and they have done that before. It is probably not the best way to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot but that is argumentative. Whether it is germane though, I think it is germane. I think Senator Koch's question goes a little more to the practicality of ever passing a constitutional amendment that way.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: I think the Legislature has it in their hands to decide whether they want to add such a thing. Whether or not the Speaker wants to allow this, I don't know where the acting speaker is, but whether or not this concept should be carried on without a hearing. I think maybe that is the only other thing that I would suggest.