

SENATOR WITHEM: I would have a question, Mr. President, and, again, I am trying to as much deal with our germaneness ruling as I am with...and, hopefully, establish a degree of consistency. I appreciate the Chair's ruling. I think it was the correct one. I have a question for Senator Hefner, if he would respond.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: Senator Hefner, I recall the other day when we were ruling on germaneness dealing with...it was Senator Chizek's bill dealing with tuition deduction, tax deduction for money that is put into a savings account, an exemption from paying an income tax. Senator Wehrbein offered another amendment that would have done a different type of exemption from an income tax. The Chair ruled that out of order, and I recall you spoke on that amendment. What position did you take on the germaneness of that amendment?

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Yes, Senator Withem, I did, and I thought that that was way out of line, where I feel that this here...

SENATOR WITHEM: In what way is it, as far as germaneness is concerned, how was that more out of line than this becomes a germane amendment? I guess I don't understand that.

SENATOR HEFNER: Because that one the other day was talking about tax-exempt bonds which the bill didn't have anything to do with tax-exempt bonds.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, but it was in the section. It was a specific...I guess the point I am trying to make is the point I made the other day, that we tend to, in this body, when we deal with germaneness, if we agree with what an amendment attempts to accomplish, then it is germane. It doesn't make any difference if it is a license fee for dogcatchers, and we want to exempt nursing homes from a tax, if we agree with that, it is germane. If we disagree, it doesn't make any difference how closely it is to a bill, then we disagree with the germaneness. I think that the body with these two amendments, with these two rulings, Senator Barrett's ruling the other day, Lieutenant Governor's ruling today, is moving toward a very narrow definition of germaneness. It is one I may not be comfortable with, but I am