

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I didn't rise on the last amendment. I did have my light on at the end, and decided that I did need to speak but I didn't get a chance to, and I would just like to...I can use the same basic thoughts that I had at that point in time on that other amendment that I can use on Senator Owen Elmer's amendment right now. We are talking in here about funding, funding which is coming from the state down to the local level for a specific group of people. I do believe that we should have the right, as legislators, to have some say-so about and some conditions to be provided as a part of that funding that we are providing. And so I would say that not only was the last one germane, even though it was declared not to be, because we were talking about employment, and this was an employment issue at that time. The argument was that, since we were not talking about money, that should not be germane. I would say we are talking about the money now, because he is saying in his amendment that the funding that is going to be provided cannot be utilized for whatever it is he is talking about not allowing them to do. So I would say this is very germane. I think that we have to be able...I am becoming dismayed about the fact that we are leading down the road here this morning and saying, hey, any amendment that I don't want is not germane, that we, as a body, have no right, all of a sudden in here, to make some conditions or some provisions as a part of a piece of legislation that we are passing. You tell me, then, how we are going to be able to build any accountability into any of our other pieces of legislation that we pass. I think the teachers should be very, very supportive of the fact that we are saying these are the things that we want to see you do if you are going to get this increase. They, themselves, keep talking about the fact that their biggest concern is being able to provide the best teaching system they can for our kids, providing quality education, and a number of the amendments that we wanted to have deal with this are trying to aim at just making that happen, they should be supportive of these measures. If in good faith, they really mean what they are saying, and all they are out here for is just not to get some money, I would say this is germane and I would support Senator Owen Elmer's amendment.

PRESIDENT: I am ready to rule on this and I will rule that this amendment is not germane. Under the last sentence of Rule 7, this certain paragraph (d), which states a nongermane amendment includes one that relates to a substantially different subject or accomplishes a substantially different purpose than that of