

PRESIDENT: Thank you. I'm ready to rule on the germaneness situation and it is this. Since the bill, in Section 2, on page 2, states the purpose of the Help Education Lead to Prosperity Act is to promote excellence in education through increased teachers' salaries and directed property tax relief, the bill does not explain that the directed property tax relief shall be affected because of the payment...increased amount sent back to the schools for teachers' salary increases, so it looks like there are two portions. One portion has to do with raising the salary and perhaps the other portion has to do with reducing property tax but it doesn't say whether that's done through the raising of teachers' salaries and the money being spent for teachers' salaries. So there is no question about the portion having to do with teachers' salaries as being germane. That is germane. There may be a little bit of question about the portion having to do with property tax, however, since the bill says on line 6 of page 2, "directed", I think that would probably make it germane but I'm not sure. So, for that reason, I'm going to rule that it is germane, the Schmit amendment is germane, and whether or not you want to challenge it and split it or whatever you want to do is all right with me. But, for the time being, I will rule that it is germane.

SENATOR McFARLAND: I would like to move to overrule the Chair, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: All right, fine, go ahead.

SENATOR McFARLAND: I'm not sure where to begin. I tried to listen to exactly what you're saying. I was talking to Senator Ashford a little bit here and I would like to move to overrule the Chair to give some of the other people a chance to talk, including maybe Senator Ashford, because he said he didn't believe it was germane anyway. I don't know, this is an intent section. It mentions property taxes. I don't see anything specifically stating that we're going to change the law with regard to property taxes and, furthermore, this is a sales tax issue. It's not a property tax issue. The amendments I understand Senator Schmit has, has to do with sales tax, in increasing the sales tax and designating that to go to a particular fund. I don't understand how any reference to intent language in Section 2 suddenly makes this a germane amendment. It baffles me. And it seems...and if you look at the amendment, now we're talking about a highway...part of it being designated for the Highway Trust Fund, for crying out loud. How in the