

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Dierks.

SENATOR DIERKS: Question.

SPEAKER BARRETT: I won't acknowledge it at this moment. Let me proceed. Senator Moore, would you care to speak to the motion? Senator Chambers, would you care to speak?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, when Senator Schmit mentioned that you have a certain number of days to take up a motion to reconsider, the person who makes the motion may not be here. The issue...we may not be at the stage of debate where the motion would be appropriate. We might be on Final Reading so you have some days during which to bring it up. But when that subject on which the reconsideration motion was made is before us again, the rule book is clear. You can't make it any clearer than what the rule says now. Senator Nichol (sic) was confused, he was befuddled, he was bewildered, he made it clear when a question was put to him directly he said, well, I don't know whether that is the case or not. He is supposed to know because he is ruling. Then he hightailed it out of the Chair. The rule book says, every motion to reconsider, every motion, shall take preference over all other questions except a motion to adjourn and I know what has been done here before. If an issue is before the body and it is not in the process of being voted on, then a priority motion does come in at that point and takes priority whether it is a bracket or to reconsider and that's what we have done and that's what I have done. Conveniently, there is no date on this motion. It didn't have to wait until we finished debating and voting on Senator Lindsay's motion. Senator Lindsay's motion to amend, which is what we were on, does not take priority under the rules over a motion to reconsider. The rules are clear, the rules are going to be violated this morning for convenience. So you put a motion up there and say, I don't want to take it now, then things go along and go along, then when it reaches a point where you're upset you say, hey, I want to take up my priority motion now. If that's the way you want to play the rules, fine, but it's good that we see the issue that it's playing on and it's good that we see the people who were playing it and you'll begin to see how things break down on the floor of this Legislature in terms of groupings and respect for the rules. I have always been in favor of a liberal interpretation of the germaneness rule, but because of the narrow ruling by the Chair,