

the members to exercise the privilege of division. Part of the problem, I think, is in the manner that this came up. A lot of the members...this is the first time I have seen what the division was and been able to go through it. And part of that problem was that the amendments, apparently through no fault of Senator Bernard-Stevens, were not distributed to the members prior to having seen it. Senator Labeledz, the sponsor of the bill, was not given an opportunity to see the amendment prior to the request for substitution and was, therefore, not given a right to object at that time, or she could have objected but, as a matter of courtesy, did not, not having seen the amendment. Yes, there are a lot of issues that have to be determined. Yes, this is an emotional issue. Yes, it's going to be tedious and it's going to take a long time to go through it. I don't think the sponsors of the bill are afraid to go through that process. The problem is, I think, the manner in which this came up. There are, as Senator Bernard-Stevens points out, there is a lot of very important issues contained in this amendment. I disagree, I guess, that each one of them has to be considered separately but, again, we are dealing with his privilege to divide. We look again as far as the integrity...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR LINDSAY: ...of the system and the question is not just whether a member has a right to divide the question in the manner he or she sees fit, but rather can that question be so divided and so diluted, even though each paragraph is going to deal with a separate item, can it be so diluted as to accomplish what is going to be accomplished this morning? It's just standard, I guess, and if I remember back from my elementary English training, that paragraphs have different ideas. What that means, I think, if we accept this reasoning, it's a precedent we're going to set, is actually you can divide any amendment at any paragraph because each one has a separate idea. And you can imagine what's going to go on in the future on not just this bill, not just any other abortion legislation, but we take it on to any other...any other topic that may want to be filibustered. The division is...it's very difficult for me to support overruling...or, excuse me, overruling the Chair because I do have a lot of faith in the system, but in this situation I think there are...with the circumstances that accompany it, primarily, with the body just not having seen this amendment prior to its division, with the primary sponsor not having seen this amendment prior to its offering, I just have a tough time