

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And thank you, Senator Kristensen. Here's what I was getting to, not dealing with a specific opinion that the court publishes, or the decision contained and elaborated on by that opinion. What I'm talking about is the way the court can ramrod legislation through this body and cause this body to abdicate our responsibilities, where we grant to them everything they want without being in a position to make sure that we use what powers we have to regulate the use of the authority that we give them. There are certain powers a court has because it is a court. We could not pass a law saying that in a dispute over taxation no court can be allowed to render an opinion. That law, if we enact it, would be unconstitutional because it is inherent with the court to render decisions. We could not pass a law determining, in advance, how the court must rule on an issue. We cannot do that. But we can set time frames during which cases must be filed, cases must be heard and, if those time frames are not met, what the consequences or results will be. The thing that I see happening with this bill is that our rules have to go by the boards in order that those who support this bill will not be inconvenienced. That germaneness ruling, this morning, was one that is incomprehensible to me. And were we dealing with any other bill or any other type of bill, such ruling, in my opinion, would not have occurred. So when we, as a purportedly and, based on the Constitution, actually co-equal branch of government will allow ourselves to be subordinated and dealt with in this fashion, we are holding ourselves out as appropriate targets for contempt. We have an awesome responsibility, and that responsibility is to legislate and to do it in accord with the requirements of the Constitution and our own good judgment, and in a way that protects the prerogatives of us as a Legislature.

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I am distressed at the tactics of the court in pushing its legislation. So what I was about to say about the purse strings is that we'll just not give them all the money that they want and make them recognize what power the Legislature does have. And I wouldn't be doing that for the purpose of dictating an opinion from them in a given case, but to remind them that they are not gods, that they are not above the other two branches of government. I'm going to leave my light on and there are a couple of other things I want to say, but should I not get that opportunity, I want it crystal clear