

we are at about the Governor's level of appropriation. I am extre...my concern is not procedural because I understand what Senator Bernard-Stevens is doing. My concern is this, that if this germaneness argument succeeds or fails, depending on how you look at it, if this amendment goes onto the bill, my gut feeling is that the 1272 reduction in spending is in jeopardy. And with that reduction in spending comes the elimination of, in my view again, some very, very important projects that though I do not necessarily think they are more or less important than paying, than funding, fully funding the teachers pay bill, they are programs that have gone through the process that are out on the floor and are now in the budget and in my opinion need to be funded. And if we...I'm very, very concerned, I don't know where the votes are, I don't know how this all pans out, but that's where...and I'll tell you, and lastly, I guess it sounds maybe too much like pride of authorship, this is my bill and this is my cut and I know it may sound like that, but the reason the cut is there is so that we can do some of these very needed projects and I am very fearful, though I support the \$14 million appropriation or whatever the dollars are, I support fully funding the teacher pay bill, I've been a cosponsor of it since I've been in the Legislature and I will support it if it comes up as a bill on the floor and I don't know what...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...I'm going to do on this one. I have some very deep reservations and fears and maybe Senator Bernard-Stevens can help me with that on what this means to the budget now if it goes on because that's what I'm going to have to hear one way or the other. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Hefner, do you wish to speak to this? Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, we're at the time of year, and I'm only going to speak to the germaneness issue rather than the merits of the issue, which I certainly recognize is in people's minds as well, but this is the time of year where we will find repeated efforts, of course, as we go along these last few days of trying to combine bills that are together in some fashion or another because otherwise they're not going to be gotten to and we begin these arguments about this time, in any event, on those bases. To me, this is clearly not germane. I can appreciate that you can suspend the