

April 8, 1992

LB 835A

germane?

SENATOR LAMB: That's correct.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I move to overrule the Chair.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Beutler, did you wish to explain your position?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Lamb, members of the Legislature, I'm not sure now to approach this argument, whether we should pretend that there is something called a germaneness rule in this Legislature or whether we should be realists and all of us acknowledge what has gone on this last couple weeks and we all know that we have all been whores, and that there is no such thing as a germaneness rule in this Legislature today. And it seems to me that to suggest now at this juncture, in order to keep something off the agenda, and this will keep it off the agenda, this is the same as a bracket motion, this is the same as a kill motion. It's the next to the last day of the legislative session and this will kill the bill. And you know, I'm just asking you to do one thing, to treat this bill as you have treated all the other bills, as you have treated procedure generally these last two weeks. We've all been trying to cooperate with one another, to get hearings on the things that were important to each of us. I have not pushed to have anything on the agenda. There have been a lot of people pushing to keep this off the agenda, plugging every hole possible. All I'm asking the Legislature is a hearing on the bill, just an up or down vote and a hearing on the bill and not to be kept from that hearing by the implementation of a rule that has only been selectively applied and almost never applied and which is not a practical impediment in this particular instance. The germaneness rule has lots of purposes, but mainly its purpose is to keep the priority bill system straight which you know we have not done at all these last two weeks and to keep from having two different subject matter in a bill to protect as far as the Constitution is concerned. But that particular rule doesn't apply at all in this instance since we're deleting from the bill all existing provisions in the bill. So the reason for the rule does not even exist anymore, neither the integrity of the priority bill system, nor the two subject matter danger. There is no reason to apply a germaneness rule in this instance and not only is there no reason to apply it, but it would be grossly unfair in terms of what has gone on in this Legislature the last