

January 17, 1995

someone to raise the germaneness question with respect to any one of those particular amendments or divisions. Now, assuming that the prior entire amendment or proposition was germane, then after it's divided if you can argue that one component is not germane when as a whole the entire proposition was relevant or germane to the bill, that can lead to some rather absurd results. So, Senator Will brought this proposed rule change which simply states that, for purposes of germaneness, if a question is germane prior to a request for a division then each and every component or proposition of the divided question will likewise be germane to the bill or pending amendment. So if the matter was germane prior to the division, the components are presumed to be germane after the division. I think he brought it because of the question, I know that it came up at least once last year, feeling that we should clarify this. It leaves perhaps more result in most circumstances. You could take this to the other extreme, I suppose, and say that it would permit someone to put some very irrelevant material onto a bill. However, I guess, if we're going to err, I think we feel that this is probably the most logical approach to the rule. If it's germane prior to the division then it's germane after the division. That's the rule most simply stated that we're suggesting.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Bromm. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, Senator Bromm gave what I think is a very good presentation of what this rule does and why it does make sense, and I think it ought to be adopted. When dealing with the issue of germaneness, as a general proposition, I am in favor of what's called a very liberal or loose interpretation. My view is that we ought to look at the question the same way the Supreme Court does. If the issue does not result in two subjects being in a bill, I think it should be germane. Naturally, that view does not prevail unless it's on a question that the Legislature itself or a majority are interested in having put into a bill by way of amendment. But it would be absurd to say that an amendment which might could be broken into ten parts is germane as an entirety but if you break it up into the component parts, this part one, this part three would not be considered germane. It would be similar to saying that as long as Senator Bromm has all the parts of his body joined then he is a human being. But if you chopped off his left ear, that no