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germane from being passed. That's not good government. It doesn't allow us to debate each of the issues and it certainly isn't what the public has asked us to do. I think we need to support the Withem amendment. It makes a clean distinction as to what is germane and what is not germane. We can always still move to override the Chair. We can always still suspend the rule on germaneness. None of that is taken away but at least every part of an amendment will have to be germane because it has to stand by itself, which is according to the rules. I urge your support of the Withem amendment.

**PRESIDENT ROBAK:** Thank you, Senator Bernard-Stevens. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers to speak to the Withem amendment.

**SENATOR CHAMBERS:** Madam President and members of the Legislature, I will tell you what I envision happening, or what is a possibility, when we get toward the end of the session. Somebody is going to offer one of those Christmas tree amendments. Special interest groups will have gotten enough votes together to put the entire Christmas tree onto a bill. An individual may not like a certain part of it so we'll raise the germaneness question. Once the Chair rules and is sustained, or if it rules the wrong way, based on what the special interest groups want, and is overridden and the Christmas tree amendment is considered germane, it will then be necessary for people who opposed certain parts of it really on the basis of those portions being not germane, we'll go ahead and divide the question and there will be a great amount of discussion, not just on those portions, but to make sure those portions do not get added to the bill there will have to be great discussion on all of the portions, even those with which the objecting member does not disagree. For example, you break the Christmas tree into its 20 little branches, I don't like branch number 20, but I know that that powerful lobby has put together a consortium, a syndicate, a clique, a clique, a junta, whatever you want to call the group, and they're going to stick with this, then I have got to fight against all 19 of the other branches. Once that question is divided and under the rules the division can be made, and since each one of these divisions might be a separate bill, each branch will be open for an amendment to each twig on that branch and the twigs, in turn, may have little buds which also are amenable to amendment. So while we're in the early days of the session and we can be somewhat abstract and academic in our view of the rules because there is no issue before us at the moment, there ought to be careful thought given