

actually the amendment would be to gut the bill. We would then...the committee then would put in all the things in all three of the income tax rebate bills that we felt were the best policy, put them as a committee amendment to something that may have to do with janitorial control of who knows what in the Department of Education. So it's a totally nongermane amendment in a sense, but it is a way that committees can take the best of all the things they have, put them into a bill, and then the committee or another senator would actually control that bill, which would make it for the best discussion. And then when it gets to the floor, Senator Schrock is exactly right, the Legislature has that right then to divide the question and talk about each individual part and make those...make the judgment of whether or not they believe those things are proper or not. That's good for the Legislature. It saves time on the Legislature, it's more efficient, and we need to be as efficient as possible. The second example I'd give you, if we actually overruled the Chair I think would also have a major impact, would be the Appropriations Committee. I may be wrong but if I remember right they'll take the Governor's budget as introduced, they basically will gut that budget and put in all of the other things that they're going to do into the Governor's budget, some of them are what the Governor wanted, some things not. They'll also take bills and gut those bills that we're going to kill and put other things. Senator Jones, for example, I think would be very interested in some of the bills and the amendments that the committee of the appropriations made on bills. If they can't bring other topics in it would make it much more complicated and much more difficult for the Legislature to function. I think the practice we set up is a good practice, it's an efficient practice. There are checks on the committee because we can divide the question, we can debate the issue. But it's also the way that we can take the best of all things in front of us, put it into a bill that is...that was totally different, that we were not going to advance out, and it's a way to expedite and bring all of the best things together into one bill so that we can talk on all things together rather than having to advance three different bills out because we couldn't put them into another bill, advance them out, have three different discussions on the same topic at different times with the...of the session. I think the Chair's ruling was proper. I understand where Senator Hudkins is coming from, but experience in the Legislature tells me at least that the Chair has made the proper decision, and I hope the body will vote not to overrule the Chair.