

violence...the degree of violence language in the statute get nothing. Let's suspend the rules, address the question, move on as many fronts as we can, all are constructive, and do what we can. Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Wesely, your light is next.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, Mr. President, members. I have been listening to Senator Withem and others who are speaking on the issue and I think that there's a few points I'd like to make. First off, I appreciate that there's a different point of view because coming into this I simply thought we'd take up Senator Pirsch's bill and suspend the rules, adopt the amendment and go forward. But I think Senator Withem has made some excellent points that have me concerned, one of them related to the article. I was thinking about that although there's a much longer article I saw this morning about the five-year-old, and it's exactly on point because this five-year-old found this handgun in the pickup of his father's...in his father's pickup, took the gun, it had been filed off, the safety guard, had hollow point bullets in it, the kid didn't know anything about it, put it in his lunch bucket or with his crayons, went to school, had it sit there for a while and then was drawing a picture of what he was going to do this summer and had in mind something involving the gun and then pulled the gun out to show the teacher to try and describe better what he was doing. Well, obviously, that concerned everybody to have a five-year-old with a gun that had no safety, evidently, with hollow point bullets. But is the child really the one at fault? Should the child be the one that's taken a year out of the school system? Isn't it really the father who ought to be the one we look at and say, what are you thinking when you have a gun on a pickup chair that your son can be sitting next to and take and stick in his bucket and take to school like that? That's what we have to be focusing on. Are we really targeting where the problem is, or are we targeting again the symptom of the problem? And I think that's the point Senator Withem is trying to make. We need some common sense, some reason to prevail over what the real problems are and what we need to do about it. And so I think the whole issue relates back to some of the other things we've looked at. The student discipline issue I would characterize as, one, you're out. There is the welfare bill, and there we're talking about two years and you're out, and the crime bill is three strikes and