

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I hate the amendment that is being offered so much that it almost spills over onto the offeror of the amendment, but my view of germaneness is such that there is no way I see even a shadow of a valid argument that this amendment is not germane. I don't like the amendment at all. I will vote against the amendment. I will speak against the amendment. But it is, in my opinion, germane. The irony is that Senator Beutler and I again are on the same side on a germaneness issue, and I think that slowly, but surely, Senator Beutler might be coming to the realization that when you have too strict an interpretation of this rule, it can prevent us from discussing matters that do flow naturally and logically from the subject matter of the bill or the amendment that is to be amended. I hope that we will overrule the Chair. In this instance, the overruling vote does not have to be because you're adopting as broad a view of the germaneness rule as I do, but simply because there is a logical and rational nexus or connection between what Senator Beutler is offering as an amendment and that which he is attempting to amend. I was kind of surprised that the Chair would say that the issue is so clear that the one, who in a sense, has to carry the burden of proof is not given the opportunity to do that. I know that our parl...proceedings, Senator Matzke, are not like those in a court of law, but you and I both know that if a person shot the Pope dead on the steps of the Vatican before 10,000 people, before millions on television, before a host of angels and whatever else might be in Heaven, and that person was apprehended, the person still should have to go to trial before people take that individual out, draw and quarter him or whatever else they are going to do. It is not enough to say that the facts are so clear in my mind that there should be no opportunity for the person making the argument to try to sway those who are going to participate in the judgment. So, in the first instance, I think Senator Beutler should have been given the opportunity to state why he believes this amendment is germane. Secondly, I think that the Chair's ruling is far too narrow. One reason I have the attitude I do about the germaneness rule is because there will develop periods during our deliberations in the Legislature when it is necessary to add amendments to bills which may be somewhat removed from the exact approach taken by a bill, but they are a part of the subject matter covered by the bill. So if the amendment does not constitute placing two subjects in a bill which would violate the Constitution, I think it should be considered germane. When