

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Hall and members of the Legislature, I would like to urge that the Chair be overruled. It's rare, you know, usually when there's a ruling from the Chair, after a period of time the ruling comes around and it's used as precedent and you are able to compare rulings and start to form your idea of what germaneness is. This morning, you may recall, I moaned very loudly on the ruling from the Chair that my amendment was not germane this morning. You may recall, my amendment dealt with exactly the same section of statute, exactly the same section of statute. Now Senator Maurstad, today, is not dealing with the same set of...same statute. He is dealing with a different statute. Remember, when you divide the question it has to be relevant to the divided portion of the question. The statute in question is 28-1205 and that's only mentioned by oblique reference in his amendment. The part of 1205 which is amended is barely technical, almost technical in nature. Basically, it's putting in a phrase saying unless the possession, use or discharge of a firearm is an element of a felony being committed, the crimes defined in this section shall be treated as separate and distinct offenses, et cetera, et cetera. It's a little procedural technical amendment. And now we're building on top of that this huge construct of three and a half pages of new law which nobody has had an opportunity to examine and we are on Select File and it has not had a public hearing and this goes to the very purpose of a germaneness rule. The purpose of the germaneness rule is to protect the public hearing process, to protect the three stages of debate, to be sure that everything is thoroughly and fairly debated, and we're ignoring all of those things. We're ignoring the recent comparison to just this morning on what germaneness means, on which Senator Maurstad passed, by the way, and we are going to broadly now go the other direction and expand the meaning of germaneness to include something that for a whole number of very practical reasons we shouldn't be dealing with at this point. We shouldn't be dealing with it. And so, for the sake of a little consistency, I think that this needs to be declared nongermane, at least on the same day we should be consistent if we can't be consistent all year long. Thank you.

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

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body, I rise in support of the ruling of the Chair. I certainly think that...and I'll admit that I have a probably broader view of the