

germaneness rule than a lot of people in the body but I think certainly Senator Maurstad's amendment that he brings to us deals with a substantially similar subject as that of the divided portion of the amendment. I mean, they both are dealing with crimes that are committed that involve the tangible use of a firearm in some respects. And I think that alone, regardless of the sections of law that are being opened up, would constitute this as a germane amendment. And, just for the record, Senator Beutler, while I was not checked in at the time, I did think your amendment this morning was germane and would have ruled that way had I been in the Chair. With that, I have been involved in gun-free school zone legislation before, as a cosponsor with Senator Ashford in past years, that the substance of the amendment, no matter what though you think of it, I think you need to put that aside when considering a vote on the overruling of the Chair. I think that this ruling is a correct one, that this amendment is germane and would urge you to support the Chair.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Wesely, you're next but you said you were not going to speak to the germaneness issue. Senator Maurstad, you cannot be recognized till you close. No, excuse me, you can be. Senator Chambers is next. He's the one that can't be recognized. You are recognized to speak to this motion.

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Thank you, Mr. President. And I appreciate the support of the Chairman of our Rules Committee in support of the ruling of the Chair and would ask others to do otherwise. Now if I've done nothing else this session, I got Senator Chambers to back up a little bit on one of his principles and that's, I can hardly believe my ears, when he indicated opposition to a germaneness. I don't know how many times I've heard him rise during this session indicating that virtually anything is germane in his book, so I've accomplished one small...one small, little victory. This does more than just add a new offense. It also amends a current offense, as I indicated in my opening. We talk about in Section 7 of the amendment amending existing law, 28-1204.04, so it, in addition to creating a gun-free school zone, it also amends that current aspect of our statute. I believe that, of course, the hearing issue is raised again, as it is from time to time, as somewhat of a red herring. As Senator Will indicated, this is not a new issue to the Legislature. There have been public hearings on gun-free school zones in the past. This is not something that's