

the Chair. Senator Beutler made reference to the fact that I had no problem with Senator Wehrbein's amendment. Both of those amendments had to do with hunting. This last one has to do with trails, which is not the same thing. The original bill struck all of the provisions previously and added. After we had accepted Sections 1 through 7, we had an entirely different bill. Adding Section 23 does add something new.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Hudkins. The Chair has been challenged. Each senator has the ability to speak one time. Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Madam President, I think the issue is clear to folks, the rule is clear on the power of the committees to correlate bills. I think if you think about this for a minute you can see the chaos that would ensue if the Speaker's ruling is overturned. It would mean, for example, that no committees could be correlating bills in this manner anymore and we already have a whole bunch of bills on the floor that are correlated in that manner. So obviously there will be a whole number of interesting objections on the basis of germaneness and, that being the case, at least as I understand the senator's theory of germaneness, much is going to depend on the accident of which part of your amendment comes first once it's divided. What's going to be relevant to item number one, whether item number one is the most important or least important or almost inconsequential portion of your division of the question? And I think you can see that there's going to be great unfairness in the application of such a rule if Section 2, when it comes up, to a divided amendment has to be germane even though it's a committee amendment to Section 1, et cetera, et cetera. So I guess I would just plead with you to maintain the traditional rule that we've always had, maintain the rule that we're seeking to clarify right now in our debate of the permanent rules and at least until such time as the permanent rules are changed, which you have the opportunity to do tomorrow, at least until that time it would seem only fair to all involved to follow the old rules. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Hudkins.

SENATOR HUDKINS: Madam President, I would request that my request for an overruling of the Chair be withdrawn, but I would like to raise a point of order.