

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 23, 1999 LB 495

always in lockstep with what the original contents of the bill were. I, as I've stated, am in favor of and always have been in favor of an expansive interpretation of the germaneness rule. You won't see it construed this tightly as we proceed through the session. But if the body upholds the Chair's ruling, and the Chair is entitled to rule in accord with what he or she thinks is appropriate, then I'm going to make sure that we apply it this tightly. Here's what I mean by that, because I don't want to trick anybody. If something is not completely in line with the bill and it's not ruled to be...if it's ruled to be germane rather than not germane, then I'll do everything I can to kill that bill. So we'll get some consistency in the rulings. That's what I'll do. And we're going to enforce that germaneness rule with a vengeance, and maybe the kind of amendments we'll allow are those that Senator Beutler offered, where you remove annually. We shouldn't have adopted Senator Wehrbein's amendment, that's not germane. He's talking about appropriating money for one year. This bill talked about doing it forever. So how can his be germane? It's doing more than tinkering around the edges or dealing with some inconsequential aspect of the bill. It changed it, it transformed it, it turned it into something entirely different from what it was.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: What I may have to start doing is getting a ruling from the Chair on every amendment that's offered. And if it takes us a while, it will be worth it, because we'll get a clearer indication of how this rule is going to be interpreted and applied. I'm going to see what happens here. The body needs to consider not just this bill and try and do a favor for Senator Stuhr, if that's what this is all about, but how it's going to impact on the way we conduct business from this point forward.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Stuhr.

SENATOR STUHR: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. Just a couple comments in relationship to the mentoring bill, which Senator Bruning has referred to. That bill is still in committee. I feel that if he feels the mentoring program is an issue that he wants to continue to