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LB 176

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: I will take it the motion is withdrawn. Senator Hudkins, who I do not see on the floor, I'm going to give her the opportunity to overrule the Chair if she chooses to do so and if she's here and within earshot, and I understand this is a little unusual. There's enough lights on and, Senator Chambers, I'll recognize you. We are on the Tyson amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Coordsen was talking about the amendment itself. I want to talk just briefly about the process and about Senator Hilgert's bill. It doesn't matter whether the Legislature says an item is germane. It doesn't matter whether we suspend our rules and allow it to be considered. The Supreme Court looks at whether or not a bill has more than one subject, and it starts by looking at what the bill set out to do. And when it looks at LB 176, this is going to be the start of the court's analysis. An act relating to the State Boat Act to amend these various sections, to change provisions relating to the operation of personnel...of personal watercraft, to define a term, to require boating safety courses for certain operators, to provide powers and duties and so forth with reference to this boating. Now there are many ways to sink a ship, and there are many ways to sink a watercraft. It's not my bill but I believe, when I look at the amendments attached to it already, it has more than one subject. I think this bill is unconstitutional right now. And even if the Legislature suspends its rules, that doesn't mean anything. If anybody read the Caterpillar bill, the court pointed out that the Legislature's rules can govern its operations if an issue of constitutionality is not involved. No matter what our rules say, the Supreme Court is going to look at the number of subjects in a bill and anybody who can read English and understand it will see that when you talk about disposing of tires and watercrafts, and now you're putting fence posts, Cowboy Trails, we ought to go ahead and put Senator Kiel's fast train between Omaha and Lincoln on this one. This is not a Christmas tree. This is some kind of a water plant. But Senator Hilgert starts out with a poor little canoe, just wanting to splash his way across a little stream. Then the next thing you know he gets caught in a little current that won't let him go right across the stream so he says, well, I'll ride with the tide and go with the flow. And he's just riding down the