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around for sure for a number of years, but we hadn't yet completed that work. Now that we have, in overwhelming numbers, put that law on our books, seems to me we ought to harmonize our hate crimes statutes. As long as we're opening up the hate crimes statute, which seems to be the will of the body, let's open up this statute, let's fix it, bring it into conformity with the Ring decision. That's where Senator Brashear is trying to take us. So long as we're doing that, let's bring it into harmony...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FOLEY: ...with all of our statutes that have changed over those years. I appreciate the fact, Mr. President, that you've ruled the amendment to be germane. The...as I indicated when I went up to the desk and discussed this with you, I went through all the proper channels and procedures. I took the concept to the Bill Drafters Office, provided him with the basic concept that I was looking for. He drafted it; we looked at it, studied it, showed it to others. That was last year and over the interim. This morning, when I realized this bill was going to come up, we went back to the bill drafter. I said, I know you're busy but can you take another look at this; let's make sure we got it right, and he did and he was comfortable with it. And I'm surprised that there would be a question of germaneness, but I can't...obviously, I don't dispute your ruling because you've ruled my way and I appreciate that. So I just wanted to put that on the record to you, Mr. President. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Foley. Senator Smith.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Again, I want to emphasize the fact that this is not new territory in terms of the hearing issue and the bill that is up there and moving along. And, in fact, there was a case that I'm more familiar with than I'd prefer to be where the extraneous issue came on to the bill and hijacked the bill, actually ultimately for the rest of that session. And I don't want to get into the details of that, but this is not new. We have a compromise up here that we can accommodate, and I hope that we can do that, in the interest of time. I mean, I don't want to stand up here and