

SENATOR BEYER: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I would like to challenge the germaneness of this amendment to the bill. Under the new definition of germaneness, Rule 7, Section 3(d) of the rules of the Nebraska Unicameral, germane amendments relate only to the details of the specific subject of the bill and must be in a natural and logical sequence to the subject matter of the original proposal. Perhaps most helpful is the definition of nongermaneness found in the same passage. A nongermane amendment includes one that relates to a substantially different subject or accomplishes substantially different purpose than that of the original bill to which it is proposed. Subjecting fraternal benefit societies to a premium tax does not relate in any manner to the details of the subject matter of LB 508, which in no instance refers to taxation of premiums collected by fraternal benefit societies, nor does the Landis amendment seek to promote the original purpose of LB 508. Rather it proposes to accomplish a substantially different purpose never intended nor contemplated by the sponsor and proponents of the bill. Any premium tax proposal should not be submitted as an amendment to another bill but should be considered separately in an appropriate bill subject to public hearing. With that, I would like to ask a ruling of the Speaker.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair rules that the amendment is not...

SENATOR LANDIS: (Microphone not on)...entitled to defend the germaneness, or are you going to make a decision with hearing just one side?

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Landis, I checked the lights here and did not see your light on, so I did not realize you wanted to speak. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Lamb, if you will open the page 28 of the bill and take a look at Section 24, it says, "Every society organized or licensed under Sections 1 to 38 of this act shall be a charitable and benevolent institution and all of its funds shall be exempt from all and every state, county, district, municipal and school tax." The question of taxation is directly raised and it is an open question as to the extent that language will be implemented. The Landis amendment says, in essence, Section 24 is true with one exception and that is the premium tax. It is in the bill. The subject of taxation