

just given, it could result in squelching amendments from any consideration that legitimately should be attached to the bill. I know the Chair, whoever sits there, has to make a judgment based on his or her best understanding at the moment, but that does not mean that the Legislature is bound by that ruling. We also know that on the issue of germaneness the rule in this Legislature has been interpreted different ways depending on who sits in the Chair at a given time. If we look at the term in its legal sense, the courts of this state, including the Supreme Court, would allow a provision such as this to be attached to the bill. It is not nongermane in the sense of having nothing to do with the subject matter of the bill before us. It is germane. It relates to the subject matter of the bill. Regardless of how it is characterized by the introducer or the Chair, the fact is that the matters contained in the bill that is before us would accommodate an amendment such as that being offered by Senator Johnson. Today the ruling bites Senator Johnson. Tomorrow it bites somebody else. I think we should be very careful not to allow too great a restricting of the power of the Legislature to legislate. There were some people on this floor, and I was one of them, who felt that an attempt to amend the call made by the Governor and allow him through his amended call or original call to place restrictions on what we, some of us felt, could legitimately consider as a Legislature as a part of the inherent power of the Legislature, we were upset about that restricting. A similar type of restricting will occur today if the Speaker's or the Chair's ruling is upheld. So I hope that you will vote to overrule the Chair in this instance and allow Senator Johnson to present his amendment. Disagreement or agreement with the amendment is an entirely different matter from the question of whether the amendment ought to even be considered at all. As broad as the scope of this bill is in the actual terms that are in this green sheet that make up the bill, it easily can accommodate the amendment being offered by Senator Johnson, and for those reasons, I will vote to overrule the Chair and I hope others of you will also.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise very, very briefly to urge the body to sustain the Chair. The Chair indicated that this was a very close call. I can