

issue. As we move through this session, there are people who are going to try to amend bills to get other propositions before the Legislature because that will be the only way they can do it. And we know that the type of ruling being given by the Speaker now would not be acceptable at that time. So it becomes a question of how the Chair is going to be manipulated by whoever sits in it. There should be an evenhandedness, there should be a consistency and there should be a judiciousness about the way these rulings are made. To say that support and visitation are foreign to each other is preposterous, totally illogical. It doesn't follow the principles of general logic and certainly not the logic of the statutes. It does not follow the logic of court decisions. It does not follow the logic inherent in the word "germane". That means things are related to each other. I will tell you what, when we have a situation where the Chair gets embroiled in these kind of issues and makes a ruling based not on the merits but on the clock, then it forces other people who don't have the prerogatives of the Chair to use the rules in a way to bring some measure of fairness back into the proceedings. And I, for one, will do it. I clipped an article that I want to show the Legislature because it had to do with the way certain people in Congress wanted to cut off debate and stop amendments and change the rules so that the leadership, as it is called, will have more power in stopping those discussions and those issues that the leadership does not want prolonged. And there was one or two senators who said that those who are not in the majority have a point of view which ought to be heard and to try to incorporate into the rules the power to stifle dissent is not the way a legislative assembly should operate. Now, at the national level, that person probably has access to the media and can create enough public notoriety, attract those in the media who understand the seriousness of the issue to prevent that from happening at the national level. But the same is not true at the state level. We have generalists, as I have often said, instead of journalists who often miss the significant and important issues and the Chair can rely on that. He knows they are tired now and they will be asleep and there will never be a consideration by anybody in the media of how inconsistent these rulings are, how the politics are clear, they jump out and scream at you. And this is one of those political issues and in my opinion, it was a political ruling and the Legislature is a political body. But the Chair is supposed