

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Senator Johnson, virtually all the sections, that this amendment would amend, are already in the bill and are being amended. Senator Warner offered an amendment, two weeks ago, changing the structure of the probation system so that the probation administrator reports directly to the court administrator, and amends several of those same sections that this amendment would amend. So I think it legislates right in the heart of where the bill is now.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Does anyone else want to give me a quick piece of advice on the germaneness? Senator Nichol, do you have any thoughts on this issue?

SPEAKER NICHOL: Mr. President, I would just say this is about the fifth bill that has been tried to be put into another bill. And I just don't think this is the way to do. If you want to spend your time on Senator Hoagland's bill and not your own, then go ahead and go along with all of this stuff. But I just don't think it is germane to start with.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I understand. I'm going to make a ruling on it. And my ruling is going to be that this particular amendment is germane to LB 529 and I'm going to tell you why. In visiting with our Clerk, it's become quite clear that 529 has become a Christmas tree bill of the Judiciary Committee. It carries a lot of ornaments, that this particular amendment is simply another ornament on the tree itself. It does touch upon some of the sections that are already in other amendments to 529, and it addresses some of the issues that already are in 529. Now that would be my ruling. Obviously, if members feel contrary to my ruling they can move to overrule, or in the alternative simply vote against the amendment. So I have ruled it germane. The next speaker is Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I have a question of Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes. Senator Hoagland, would you respond to a question from Senator DeCamp?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Yes.