

25 votes. If the committee kills the bill, then it takes 30, which is more difficult. Now there is another method that is also used. You find another bill to which this issue is germane. So on the floor of the Legislature you amend the essence of the bill into that bill, and you go from there. Now whether you can get the votes to do that is up to you, but it only takes 25 votes to do it. So, clearly, we are dealing with something which is strictly a power play. It is not according to the rules. I'll leave it at that.

**SPEAKER NICHOL:** Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Haberman.

**SENATOR V. JOHNSON:** Mr. Speaker and members of the body, it had been my desire that LB 662, of which I was one of three introducers, would be referred to the Revenue Committee. I felt, as I have felt for a long time, that school organization is essentially a tax issue and is not a keeping a schoolhouse open issue, or not a quality of education issue, but it is simply a tax issue. I felt particularly... I felt referral of LB 662 to the Revenue Committee, this year, was particularly important because this year the Revenue Committee is spending lots of time discussing the issue of property tax. If one discusses property taxes one needs to discuss those taxes in a lot of different contexts, including the context of the appropriate tax base for governmental units. That simply cannot be discussed in the absence of legislation that deals with school organization. So I felt, and I appeared before the Executive Board to express my feelings, I felt that LB 662 needed to go to the Revenue Committee. But, as Senator Howard Lamb has so ably pointed out, the Executive Board was torn on the question as to whether LB 662 should go to the Revenue Committee or instead should remain where it has traditionally been in the Education Committee. Because an impasse was reached, the Executive Board decided that it would put together a special committee consisting of the Executive Board itself and the Education Committee. So the poor old Revenue Committee got cut out lock, stock and barrel from the issue. But I don't feel as though the Revenue Committee was cut out lock, stock and barrel in this sense. As many of the old timers in this body will remember, several years ago, when we again were concerned about property tax relief, we specifically appointed the Executive Board as a committee to take a look at the