

possible to change the rules of the Legislature, and that is in fact an important part of this whole issue. The issue here is whether or not the committee system should be sustained. It is not the issue of studded snow tires. It is whether or not our rules can protect us from these kinds of maneuvers because in fact it only takes a majority, a simple majority, to change basically the rules of this Legislature. Now I think we all should consider the issue here not as studded snow tires but as whether or not the Chair should be overruled. It only takes a simple majority to overrule the Chair and that is an unfair way to change the rules of this Legislature.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Cullan and then Senator Higgins.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, from the time that the studded snow tire issue came to the Nebraska Legislature, I supported Senator Labeledz' position. I have opposed Senator Newell in his attempt to eliminate studded snow tires in the State of Nebraska and I have supported Senator Labeledz in her attempt to allow us to use them and I will vote with Senator Labeledz to raise the bill from committee but I will not support Senator Labeledz here. It should take 30 votes, not 25, to raise this bill from committee. The committee system is tremendously important. If you look at the statistics and analyze the way this Legislature operates, most bills which reach General File pass but we do retain a lot of bills in committee because the committee system is the strength of the Unicameral system and without it the Unicameral cannot function and I think it is much too easy to raise bills from committee now. But at any rate, the issue before us is what the rules are and whether or not the Speaker of the Legislature or the Chair has interpreted those rules correctly and I contend that he has. When a bill is killed should be from the date that the committee takes that action, not from the point in time when the committee chairman makes that report. The rules of the Legislature allow a committee chairman eight days, eight legislative days, to report the action of the committee to the floor. What does that mean and how does that affect this issue? Let's suppose that I am a committee chairman and my own bill is killed by my own committee. So what I want to do is get that bill before the Legislature. So I just simply hold that bill for eight full days, and in that period of time I can file the motion. Now that allows for incredible manipulation by the committee chairman when he supports his bill and I don't think that any individual ought to have the ability to manipulate the system that way. Secondly, Senator Kremer reported this bill in two days. He didn't delay excessively. He did it probably