

killed by the committee when Senator Wesely was not in executive session. He came and asked us to reconsider our action and asked me not to report the bill for eight days. At his request and his opportunity to have the committee reconsider the action, I held the bill up, did not report it immediately. Senator Wesely asked the committee to reconsider their action. They did and they reported his bill to the floor of the Legislature. I don't see anything wrong with that, Senator Higgins, and I simply went to each member of the committee to ask them if it was all right, to ask if Senator Wesely should have an opportunity to present his bill before the committee before we reported it. That is what happened. That is different than the situation that we are talking about here. Under the situation that we are talking about here, had I been a supporter of Senator Wesely's, I could have simply drug my feet and asked Senator Wesely to file a motion to raise the bill in the meantime and had 25 votes instead of 30. That is the issue and that is the manipulation I am talking about and I don't think a committee chairman ought to be able to do that. That is why I am voting against Senator Labeledz. Thank you, and I appreciate the opportunity, Mr. Speaker, to clarify what happened with respect to Senator Wesely's bill.

SENATOR CLARK: All right, Senator Labeledz will now close.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you. As I started to say, I believe that Senator Wesely as Chairman of the Rules Committee, one of the first duties that I think he should be taking up with his committee is to define final action. The bill, as far as I am concerned and maybe I am wrong, is the property of the committee, and I have heard that said on the floor so many times, until it is recorded, the committee's action is recorded with the Legislature which would be the Clerk, and then it becomes the property of the Legislature and the committee can at no time take any further action. As long as that bill is in committee, they can take further action. Even though it has been indefinitely postponed, they can reconsider and advance the bill or hold it in committee. So there is no final action as long as that bill is the property of the committee. When it becomes the property of the Legislature, that is when the committee has got their final action and no other time. The Chairman of the committee signs the form, says final action has been taken, and then that information is given to the Clerk. Up until that time, there is no final action taken. I ask for an overruling of the Chair.

SENATOR CLARK: All right, the Chair is going to explain the ruling. I agree with Senator Beutler and Senator Wesely