

on many of these rules fights that we have I will argue that, regardless of what the specific issue is before us, we need to look at what the rules are, and what they say, and what is supposed to be accomplished. We have a situation before us, and we can ask the question, if a bill is in committee, does the committee retain custody or jurisdiction over that bill until it reports it to the full Legislature either killed or with five or more votes supporting it so that it will be placed on General File? If a person were allowed...myself for example, I have a bill to repeal the death penalty. More than 20 days have elapsed since that was heard, in fact it was heard last session. Can then a person, by filing a motion to pull a bill from committee, prevent the committee from doing anything with it? That's what we're looking at. If the mere filing of a motion, 20 days or more after a bill has been heard, think of the bills in Revenue Committee. I can stop them from killing any of those bills by filing a motion. And if there are 25 people on the floor who'll support me, we'd pull those bills out of the Revenue Committee, no matter what the Revenue Committee thought ought to be done with those bills. Now if the committee has not acted, a motion of the kind Senator Stuhr has offered can force the committee to do something, one way or another. As long as the bill is in the committee's jurisdiction...and early in the session everybody was arguing for changes in the rules, some of which I opposed, like one by Senator Wickersham, argued that the committees must be strengthened, what is there for the committees to do must be allowed to be done and the body has to support it. And rules changes were introduced at the beginning of the session to do that, and I know it because I have the lumps, bumps, and scars to prove it. I lost, in other words, on those motions and rule changes that I oppose. So in this instance the bill has been acted on by the committee. The committee voted to kill the bill. The rules allow for both of those situations to be dealt with. If the committee has not acted and does not act prior to the taking up of a motion, then that motion would be in order. The committee, while it had jurisdiction, acted, as many committees have done. I even lost a vote that we had taken on Ag Committee to kill one of Senator Schrock's bills, and they met under the balcony and revived that bill, so...because it hadn't been reported out as killed. Now this bill has been killed. There is a rule now that deals with that situation. When a bill has been killed by a committee, a motion can be made to place it on General File notwithstanding the action of the committee, and that motion obviously has to be