

from taking action? The bill doesn't say that. The bill does not say...or the bill, the rule does not say that the committee is precluded from taking action either way. And I think the interpretation of the people that are arguing against the Speaker's ruling is that a committee is free to advance a bill after a motion is made under this section of the rules, but is not free to indefinitely postpone a bill. And in fact that's not what the rule says. The rule also does not say specifically that the committee is empowered to act after a motion has been made under this section. But I think that, absent anything specific to the contrary, we need to uphold the ability of committees to act. And, as has been pointed out, even after a motion is made under this section and a committee does act to kill the bill, or to advance the bill, still other motions are in order, especially if they vote to kill the bill, motions are in order under Section 17 of Rule 3. So, certainly the committee has upped the ante with respect to the number of votes that are required to pull a bill out of committee, but it obviously has not precluded that motion from being made. And there...and as I visited, you know, with Senator Stuhr and Senator Hudkins, we talked about the different reasons that bills are held. And clearly a bill that's being held simply because the committee does not want to advance it, is different from a bill that is being held because the committee is working on it, because it wants to carry it over to the next legislative session, if it's in the first year of a two-year Legislature. And those are different situations. I don't know how you could construct the rules to reflect that, though. I really think that in the end what should happen is if a motion is made under this section, and if the committee subsequently acts to indefinitely postpone the bill, certainly that should bump that motion over to the other section, Section 17, the section intended to allow us to revive indefinitely postponed bills. So I think while the rule...it's not clear, right now, in the rules. I think that the better...the better place to come down is with the Speaker and to uphold the committee system and the ability of a committee to act, and not allow a motion made under this section to freeze a bill and take that out of the committee's jurisdiction. With that, I would give any time I have left to Senator Beutler.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler, you have two minutes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, let me just speak quickly in