

whether or not this has ever occurred before or not. Just a couple of points that I think we need to be cognizant of, and one of these I'm almost afraid to raise, because no one has begun to discuss what they think the merits of the bill and whether it be good or bad to vote on it, on the floor. That isn't the issue here. And I'm glad to hear that the debate has been confined to the rules and how we're going to deal with our own processes, because that is the issue. And I think you can read Section 19 and Section 17 as to be a reasonable and comprehensive plan for dealing with bills that are held in committee and dealing with them after committee action has been taken. In my view, Section 19 is there to allow a relief valve for those situations in which a committee has failed to act on a bill, through benign neglect, or when a committee is hopelessly deadlocked and you can neither kill nor advance the bill in the committee. If either of those circumstances pertain, you need Section 19. Subsection (c) of Section 19 is perfectly consistent with that rationale, because if you can't get 25 votes on the floor for a motion to pull it out of a committee, that bill is done. At what later date are you going to get 25 votes to do anything with it? Get it off the agenda, it doesn't deserve anymore time, you've had a vote, you've had a discussion, it's gone. That's perfectly consistent with the rest of the pattern, in my mind, in the rules. The other rationale that has been advanced for the Speaker's ruling is that it strengthens the committees. If that is an important consideration, I guess you can say that it does. And I'm certainly in favor of that as a general, overall objective in our process. But I don't think you even have to have that as a consideration. I think all you have to do is look at the pattern that is laid out in the rules, it makes sense. The Speaker's ruling is in conformity with the processes that are laid out if you read the text of the rules and if you begin to think about why the rules are there. I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Lindsay, if he has any comments he would like to make.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Two minutes, Senator Lindsay.

SENATOR LINDSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Members, an issue that I wanted to raise additionally, and Senator Wickersham I think touched on this a bit, Section 17 and Section 19 are two different sections designed to do two different things. We should be aware this