

first meeting the decision was to sleep on the matter, hold it over, not take a vote. At that time the consideration was to send them to Revenue. They were thinking about sending them to Revenue Committee, saying they are revenue bills when clearly they are school reorganization bills which have traditionally been handled by the Education Committee and deal with that subject matter. The second meeting there was a motion. Senator Beutler made t'he motion to refer the bills to Revenue Committee, but there were not enough people there to do it. They only had four votes. Senator Chambers was absent. So there were only four votes to send it to Revenue. There were not enough votes to send it to the Education Committee. So yesterday what happened. Another meeting of the Reference Committee, right across the hall in the Senator's Lounge. I was invited to sit in on it, which I did. This time Senator Beutler...I guess I'm not getting too many people's attention. I guess the lobbyists out there have done their work. I'm fighting a very uphill battle. I've got two school organizations out there wanting them to go anywhere except to Education Committee. So I'm not getting the attention of the people. Senator Landis is not listening to what I say. I'm hopeful that maybe some people will. But then yes...I'll continue the story. Yesterday the motion, out of the blue as far as I was concerned, was we have reached a compromise, we will send them jointly to Education Committee and to the Executive Board. Well, you know that clearly, in my mind that is a contravention of the rules. I am disappointed at Senator Beutler. When Senator Beutler came in here, six years ago, he rapidly gained a reputation for being a stickler for the rules, who was objective about enforcement of the rules. Now you see him doing exactly the opposite. He knows that these bills should not be referred to any place except to Education Committee. The issue here is more important than the content of the bills. As I see it, here is a power play to put these bills somewhere so they stand a good chance of getting out of committee. That, purely and simply, is the whole issue, put them somewhere, any committee, just so they have a good chance of getting out of committee. Why the decision was made to change from sending them to Revenue Committee to this joint committee, I'm not quite clear on that. I think maybe some votes were counted and they decided there was a better chance to get them out of this joint committee. Does the end justify the means? To my knowledge we have not had this sort of thing before. Now we do have two...we have had the Revenue Committee and