

appears that most people are in agreement on this particular compromise. The Exec Board, as you know, is composed of a cross section of the Legislature that is chosen by secret ballot at the beginning of the session. So I don't think that there is anything ominous or there is no power play involving the Exec Board. We're there to represent the broader interests of the Legislature on an issue of great magnitude in response to the need for that broader interest, as expressed to us by the various people who came to us during the referencing process. Now on the technical matter of the rules, Senator Lamb points out that the rule says unless otherwise specifically authorized that the bills are not to go to special committees. But I suggest to you that there are semantics games being played in the first instances, and there are two equally good interpretations of the rules as what Senator Lamb is giving you as an interpretation of the rules.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR BEUTLER: First of all if we had referenced the bill to the Reference Committee rather than to the Exec Board, that is not a special committee and the referencing would have been within Senator Lamb's definition. But we didn't do that because we are not playing games, we are not trying to fool anybody. But it would have avoided the other technical problem that Senator Lamb is presenting to you. Secondly I suggest to you two other things real quickly, before I get...before I am cut off. I'll try to come back and explain this in more detail. But there are two questions involved. First of all unless otherwise specifically authorized, who is to do the authorizing. The rule does not say what that means, who is to do the authorizing. Our interpretation was that the Reference Committee can do that authorizing. The Reference Committee did authorize the Exec Board to take the bill. So we are not technically involved in violation of the rule. Secondly, and if you want to talk about the spirit of the law, if you want to talk about the spirit of the law look at the handout I gave you on the authority of the Executive Board and the jobs that the Executive Board are supposed to...the job of the Executive Board in the Legislature.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR BEUTLER: 5402, and I would like to talk more about