

UNAUTHORISED INFORMATION

We all know that, in a competitive auction, you can't say to your partner "I've nearly got enough to bid again but I'm going to Pass, so if you've got a bit extra then you should bid."

But, in that same situation, if you hesitate for a while, obviously thinking about whether to Pass or bid on, and then pull out the Pass card ... isn't that just the same?

I hope you think so.

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In the depths of the Law Book (it's Law 16B1) it says

Any extraneous information from partner that might suggest a call or play is unauthorized. This includes ... unmistakable hesitation.

(a) A player may not choose a call or play that is demonstrably suggested over another by unauthorized information if the other call or play is a logical alternative.

(b) A logical alternative is an action that a significant proportion of the class of players in question, using the methods of the partnership, would seriously consider, and some might select.