

January 10, 1980

taken by the committee in executive session."

PRESIDENT: All right, the Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, there is some concern about this section and the rule change as proposed about whether or not it was still very clear that...and if all of you would look at page 16 of the proposed revamp of Rule 3 that is what I am talking about, page 16 and that refers to section 14. The concern was that it takes away, it deletes specific reference to reporting by the news media of executive sessions, and this just states very clearly that action taken by the committee is open and can be reported upon by the news media, and just clarifies that section. It is already the practice presently and this just makes sure that we are all clear that that is proper, so I don't see any problem with the proposed change.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion to the Wesely amendment?

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Beutler just asked me is that an amendment to subsection (a) and it is. It is section 14, subsection (a) and it would just add that the media would be allowed to report on the action taken by a committee in executive session.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Wesely, why would you even need an executive session?

SENATOR WESELY: Well at this point the executive session serves the function of allowing the committee to make decisions amongst themselves without the public being present, but I believe it is absolutely a proper function to have the press present and allowed to report on the action taken.

SENATOR NICHOL: Why would you not want the public there if the press were allowed to report everything that has been... is being done in executive session? Why not just do away with the executive sessions entirely, because there aren't hardly ever any members of the public there anyway?

SENATOR WESELY: Well, you make decisions like that in discussion as you know it is helpful to be able to speak freely without...well, if there are people there, if there are lobbyists there in particular there can be some influence exerted that I think would not be proper and so the executive session then would serve the function of allowing the committee