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amongst themselves to discuss matters, come to a decision and take action, and the media being present can report the action taken and the discussion that we undergo.

SENATOR NICHOL: I think we should think carefully before adopting your amendment as to the purpose of the executive session. I don't know that that would be a good idea to have the news media report everything in executive session. This is contrary to what I thought executive sessions were for. Maybe I don't understand what executive sessions are about or the reason for executive sessions. So I think we should think very carefully about your amendment here before we adopt it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, just a point of clarification and perhaps it is unnecessary in that Senator Nichol realizes this, but subsection (b) does provide for a closed session under extraordinary circumstances. So if there are matters to be discussed that for one reason or another the public should not have access to at the present time, it is always possible for the chairman of the committee to call a closed meeting as opposed to an executive session and let the majority vote of the committee go ahead and deal with their problem without public input.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, I have an inquiry and perhaps it should be directed to Senator Wesely. Senator Wesely, as I understand it current tradition is that the press is now present at executive sessions and the press does now report on executive sessions. This simply is putting into words that we are expecting them to continue doing what has previously been done. Am I correct?

SENATOR WESELY: Senator Marsh, that is my feeling.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol, did you wish to speak again?

SENATOR NICHOL: Does this rule as it stands with the amendment on it mean that you can have executive session without the press under certain circumstances and if that is true under what circumstances can you have an executive session without the press? Either Senator Wesely or Beutler. Did you understand the question?