

LA 219

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to me, and I'm sorry to understand your motion like this, but I feel that it's making it exactly what I was afraid of, the informal part that would prevent us from discussing issues.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I'm willing to strike the informal out if that will satisfy you.

SENATOR BARNETT: No that won't satisfy me, but that would just substantiate what I'm saying is happening.

SENATOR CARPENTER: That's really just an excuse then.

SENATOR BARNETT: No, I'm still going to vote against it, regardless, but I'm asking about that.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Okay. Anyway getting back to the deal if the Chair will permit it, if you go to the bill on page 2, the only change on that page is in line 19 after the word formal, you insert or informal. Now if you go to the page 4, the amendment does, is strike all of section 2, which sets up all of these exceptions and it causes all these problems, these city councils and county commissioners and the school board and the public park, everybody meets and they cut this thing up, that's actually what they do, and the people are never allowed, neither are the press. I don't think public government should do that, I think whatever they do, elected office including us which we've done to ourselves, everything they do the people ought to have a chance to see it and the press ought to have a chance to be there. You may not feel that way, we did it for ourselves, and what we do for ourselves, I think is good enough for any body else.

SPEAKER: Once again is there any further discussion of the motion. Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR FRANK LEWIS: Mr. President, members of the body, I have a couple of questions I wish to ask Senator Carpenter if he would yield?

SPEAKER: Senator Carpenter will you yield?

SENATOR LEWIS: Number one, at local subdivisions of government now, may any official action be taken during executive session?

SENATOR CARPENTER: No, but that's where all the work is done, like it used to be in our committee, and the city of Scotts Bluff for example they meet for hours, and they discuss the thing how they made up their minds. When they make up their minds all they do go in and vote yes or no, -

SENATOR LEWIS: But no official votes are taken in executive session?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Official but no, but that's where the work is done in order to make up their minds what they are going to do before they exhibit themselves to the people.

SENATOR LEWIS: Now all public meetings where official action is taken must be posted by law, I believe three days in advance, is that correct?

SENATOR CARPENTER: Right.

SENATOR LEWIS: So no action can be taken officially without notification to the citizenry and notification to the press, and no official action may be taken in regard to any local subdivision? So the essence of what you are suggesting is open sessions to, for planning, negotiations, items of that type, but it will not have any effect on the votes, the press is informed when the votes is taken now, the public is informed