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over their shoulder so to speak and determine if the rate was fair and if the results were fair. They found no argument. They found no argument either with the rate making process or the rates that were established. Now what more can you ask? I suggest you reject the Goodrich amendment to the Schmit amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right now. Senator Richard Lewis. We're still debating the Goodrich amendment.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: I don't want to take issue with my good friend, Senator Schmit, but I do find him a little out of character tonight. Generally he's the champion of the opposed, the fatherless, the downtrodden, and here he is fighting for the big one tonight. And I do find this extremely out of character. Now when we're talking about costs, I wasn't going to bring this up but I'd just like to mention a few costs to you. We've spent a lot of time in reviewing costs district by district and here is one, an actual rural district and this goes back five years. The actual kilowatt usage has increased 31%. The ratchet charge, for those of you who are familiar with it, has increased 299%. The cost per mill of kilowatts delivered has increased from 6.8 mills to 10.6 mills. And yet, Senator Schmit, you say it is an entirely feasible and reasonable operation, that it doesn't need any surveillance of any kind. That all we've got to do is trust the good judgment of your friends, NPPD, and all will be well. I think that we should stick tight on this particular amendment. I think we need to give someone some authority to look into this issue. We are a public power state. This public power district is a creature of the Legislature. The Legislature has a responsibility here to the public to see that this run economically as possible and does not involve a lot of fringe benefits. And I think we have every right to expect some surveillance of the way this thing is run from the Legislature. And I would move adoption of the Goodrich amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right now, Senator Goodrich, back to you. Are you ready to close?

SENATOR GOODRICH: Yes.

PRESIDENT: Senator Goodrich...now wait a minute. Senator Schmit, for what purpose do you rise, Senator Schmit?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Mr. President, I believe I should have an opportunity to refute what my good friend, Senator Lewis, has said about rates and I'd like to ask that permission.

PRESIDENT: All right now, we have a little problem because the rules do say that you can speak twice on an issue other than an answer to questions, etc. other than the fact that you were the introducer of the bill as I understand it. Excuse me, Senator Goodrich is the introducer of the bill and you have the amendment. Now, if you're going.....

SENATOR SCHMIT: May I speak or explain why I want to speak, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT: All right, go ahead and explain.