

March 27, 1974

PRESIDENT: That motion is now in order. The motion to indefinitely postpone. Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, I was just advised by my seat mate if I don't withdraw it, I'm something else. So here I go, I'm something else. I don't know what I am but I'll tell you this. I think you're opening up the biggest can of worms you ever saw because you're going to have every little city and every sub-division of government in this state wanting to get into the power business. The next thing you know they're going to want their lines. Every one's going to say, hey, they got theirs, what about me? I think it's the biggest step backwards you could take. I think you're creating Frankenstein's monster. That is not to say we don't have problems. That is not to say we can't make improvements over what we have. If we have people really interested in public power, why in the hell don't we get about a 10-man committee that'll work for five or six months and really hammer it out. Oh no, nobody wants to work, lay it over until next year, that's the simple thing to do. Or rush a bill through. You're going to kill the goose that laid the golden egg. We've got the fourth cheapest power in the country and ten years from now, if this bill is allowed to go through and everyone and his brother is in the generation act with a bunch of inefficient little units, you'll live to rue the day. I move that this bill, LB656, be indefinitely postponed.

PRESIDENT: Next to speak is Senator Kremer and then Speaker Proud.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I'm going to support the motion to kill this bill. This bill was held in committee for quite some time for the very reason we're discussing now. There's a lot of answers that we tried to get that we did not get. I tried to get them as late as yesterday and I still do not have them and until I have those answers, I'm not going to support the movement of this bill. Now, as Senator Stahmer has already indicated, what we're going to do, we're going to start a fight that lasted for years and we didn't end it until some time in the 60's and we're going to do the same thing again. And as far as I'm concerned, I want to look for some more answers before I'll support this bill. I'm going to support the motion to kill it.

PRESIDENT: Speaker Proud.

SENATOR PROUD: Well, Mr. President, in the interest of brevity, the facts of the matter are, I don't care if we argue all night. OPPD and the rest of us got the vote so let's roll. I move the question. Now the question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Does the Chair see five hands? All right, the question is, shall the debate now close? All those in favor of closing debate will vote aye. Those opposed will vote no. That still takes 25 votes. Thank you. Clerk will record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, no...4 nays.

PRESIDENT: Motion prevails that debate will now close. Senator Stahmer is closing.

SENATOR STAHMER: All right, I just want to make one point clear I didn't make clear. No one approached me to do this.