

futility. You probably recall that some two or three years ago there were directives by the federal authorities that simply will shut off all these small town power plants from either natural gas or oil. They are simply not allowed to build plants, or use their existing plants, if they continue with either natural gas or oil. If these towns want to have their own electric power plant, they have to convert to either coal or hydroelectric, or nuclear, and that is way beyond the capacity of most of the small towns you're talking about. So when you talk about power plant replacement in the 15 thousand kilowatt range, you're talking about something that will not happen in the first place. They cannot get natural gas or oil for it, because the federal authorities believe that when you convert natural gas into electricity that you have too much of energy loss and therefore, we have to preserve our oil and natural gas for other purposes, and electricity cannot be generated by these small town small power plants with either oil or natural gas. So you might as well vote for this amendment, because in reality you just won't see any case like that anymore in Nebraska, or anywhere else in the United States. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer, do you wish to speak to the Fowler amendment?

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, rather reluctantly I'm going to support the Fowler amendment. As it has been stated before, this amendment, or practically the same kind of an amendment, was considered by the Committee and it's kind of a compromise. In many ways I would have preferred that everything had to go before the Power Review Board. Now, the Power Review Board came out with some rather deep-seated problems that we experienced in the early sixties, and some of us have long felt that we did not give them the authority to enter into disputes, or into construction of plants, or the cancellation of plants, and now more recently again we've seen more and more problems come to surface as related to public power in Nebraska. Now, I understand Senator Fowler, in explaining his amendment, it would have to deal with the replacement of a present plant operation. Now the size of this plant that we're talking about is not too much to be alarmed about, I don't believe. It could provide for a loophole, and if it does I think we can come back next year and correct it. I think we ought to be willing to go this far, and I'm going to support the Fowler amendment on that basis.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Clark.