

March 8, 1979

LB 119

that this probably is not the best amendment and that I have had another amendment, and that is the one that is on your desk, which merely provides that a hearing be held before the Power Review Board in regard to the cancellation of a construction permit. It is permissive. It does not mandate that permission be given by the Power Review Board but it does require a public hearing so that all ratepayers are notified as to what the situation is, that other suppliers are notified and that in general the public as a whole is privy to the reasons for cancellation of a project which has previously been approved by the Power Review Board. I believe that this is a workable amendment, one that will clear up some of the confusion that occurs in the power districts. It will give everyone notice as to what is happening and it will not allow any power district to unilaterally cancel a contract without everyone knowing what the situation is. I would ask that this amendment be adopted.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely, then Senator Frank Lewis and then Senator Kelly. Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the Lamb amendment to LB 119. As a coinstructor of LB 119 I feel that it is a very good bill and as amended in General File I think it still continues to be a very good bill and the Lamb amendment improves it. I think it is a very positive step. I think we need to provide some public accountability for not only the idea of constructing and the proposal of constructing a power plant but also the proposal, any decision to close down or break a contract concerning power plant construction. I think Senator Lamb really did a positive thing in proposing this amendment and I support it very strongly.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, I rise to support the Lamb amendment. I think Senator Lamb is trying to bring to attention some critical problems that have and continue to occur in this industry. You know we spent so much time talking about money and reductions and costs and those factors. Probably the correction on this amendment that Senator Lamb, if it had been in existence two or three or four or five years ago, the ratepayers and the Omaha Public Power District would not have picked up far more in excess to the "dollar settlement", Senator Lamb, of \$36,000,000.