

March 14, 1979

LB 458

would like to explain what I am attempting to do with LB 458. First of all, LB 458 was a bill that would have restricted power districts, municipal electric utility companies, from certain type of advertisements. At the committee hearing on LB 458, the members of the different entities in this state came to us and more or less indicated to us that they weren't doing any type of advertising that wasn't required in their business. The intent of the bill was to restrict them with regard to political advertising and with advertising a product that in fact they might be running short of, promoting their use. Since the members of the entity had indicated to us that there was no problem, they weren't doing this anymore and since the bill itself needed some work done on it, the members of the committee, of which I am a member, voted to indefinitely postpone it but the bill, even though it had been killed hadn't even got cool yet until I happened to overhear an advertisement over the radio and I sent for a copy of it and I would like to read a copy to you and please keep in mind I am not a radio announcer so I won't be able to put the emphasis as good as a radio announcer does but it goes like this: "Who runs the public power districts in Nebraska? You do. You elect a board of directors from eleven subdistricts located throughout Nebraska, a nonpartisan office. Interested dedicated people are elected for six year terms. The NPPD Board of Directors plus the state's Power Review Board and the Public Service Commission oversee public power activities within the state. Finally, the State Legislature enacts laws governing the overall activities of the power districts operating in Nebraska. Who runs the public power districts in Nebraska? You do. Nebraska Public Power District, Nebraskans serving Nebraskans." I think you all have copies of this on your desks plus two other ads that are being aired fairly regularly on some of the radio stations within this state. I have no idea what the cost of these ads are but quite frankly it irritates me when they take my dollars and tell me what a great job they are doing. What I would attempt to do with your help would be to resurrect LB 458 and send it back to the Public Works Committee, because as I say, the bill does need some work on it. I think it needs too much work to try to do that work on the floor on General File. I think within the committee's structure we could get the work done on the bill that perhaps would get it to say exactly what we want it to say. My contention is that if we, the members of this body, want to allow our political subdivisions to engage in political advertising, then I guess that is fine but I for one don't think that is a good idea. I would remind you that if we think that's a good idea, maybe we should change the format