

March 27, 1979

LB 460

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Kahle moves to indefinitely postpone LB 460.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I think we could debate this thing all afternoon. I am really sorry to hear my city friends talk about the terrible things that we have done outstate with REA. I would like to remind Steve Fowler for instance, that in all the social programs that he has promoted in the Legislature, I wonder where the money came from. Now if we have been the victims of some cheap interests to build REA lines so that our people in outstate Nebraska could live in a little bit more luxury, why then I am really sorry that we took this money with cheap interest which was paid back and is being paid back by the rural people. We pay the same price for our electricity from the NPPD, I think, as Lincoln, Nebraska, does. So I don't think you are giving us anything. I don't believe you understand and Senator Schmit was one that brought it out. How much energy is used out on the farm? I have a son that is in the hog business. His electricity bill last month was \$800. Now you can say, well he can well afford it. The hog prices have been pretty good. It hasn't always been good. We have raised some dollar and a half corn with some high priced electricity also that we used to pump with. I just don't see where this bill is coming from. I don't understand it. The REAs in the State of Nebraska are not asking for charity. We are paying the same amount for electricity as you are at the bulk level and I guess it hurts me to think that you are going to bite the hand that feeds you. Thank you. I hope we kill the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, we are on the kill motion.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would just like to say this. I agree with much of what Senator Kahle has said. I would have to say also though that I appreciate the support yesterday of Senator Simon and Senator Fowler when we were attempting to do something about the cost of energy. Some of my friends who are now so vociferous about the cost of energy, they were not quite so vocal yesterday. I don't want to point out that this bill really doesn't do anything. It says the board "may" if they so choose establish a lifeline rate and I am going to suggest to you that no board is going to go out and cut their own throat. I think Senator