

March 29, 1979

LB 207

improves the bill and I will support the amendment and I will support the bill. I would think, however, that this isn't the long range solution of the problems that we face with disputes between different power industries in this state. I consider it a stopgap measure, basically, because I think that we have had in the last few years a serious problem between LES and NPPD and we need some sort of solution so that in the immediate future we can deal with sort of a problem. However, there are some questions that I have with this bill, some concerns that I have with this bill that can't be answered in the short time we have had to consider it but I think in long range there are things that we could be doing that could be better solutions to the problems we have had with disputes between the different power entities in this state. First off, you have a problem between two power entities, let's take the NPPD, LES example, and then you decide, well we have this problem. We are going to go to arbitration. So they pick out a person each and then they pick between the two of them the third person. Well, that is fine, you have the two power entities involved in the process but what about the people? What about the general public? What role do they play? They don't. They don't play a role. It is just the two power entities battling it out with the third person as an arbitrator trying to come up with a solution. The general public, I think, is kind of left out in the cold and I would like to see a better way that would involve a better process that involves more people than just that, but under the circumstances, I have agreed to this proposal. Another question I have is you have a question with LES and NPPD but there are other power entities that are affected by that decision. There are power entities that receive power, let's say electricity from NPPD, that the decision with LES then affects those power entities. That is to say that it is not just the two entities that are battling it out over rates that are going to be affected by the decision made because there are other people who are going to have to pay more or less as a result of that decision. They ought to play a role in the decision making process I think as well as the general public. The last question is I am characterizing this as a stopgap rather piecemeal solution to an overall problem with the rate structures in this state. How do we charge for wholesale rates? How do we charge for retail rates? I think that the Public Works Committee will be looking at this problem over the interim so I have agreed to this bill and I think that we will come up with some better solutions than this one in dealing with that problem but the question really is, what are we going to do with overall rate structures or what are we going to do about the particular problems that through this process will be