

April 9, 1979

LB 457

Newell has asked me to handle the committee amendments. The committee amendments were offered by the REAs and really essentially they are a matter of clarification. With these amendments, I understand that the REAs have no problem with the bill and NPPD at this point may offer some amendments on Select File but with the adoption of the amendments the opposition essentially has been virtually eliminated from the bill. I would move for adoption of the committee amendments. I move for adoption of the amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the committee amendments to LB 457. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. We are voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The committee amendments are adopted. Now Senator Fowler, would you like to discuss the bill as a whole?

SENATOR FOWLER: LB 457 is a bill that sets up uniform procedures for the State of Nebraska for the setting of electric rates. It was the feeling of the interim study committee after surveying the power districts, the rural electrics, the municipals and so on that when you come to an industry that involves as much money that when you come to the basic money question, the rates, that there should be some type of uniform procedures for the setting of those rates and that there should be opportunities for public notice and public hearing and this is the intent of LB 457. The power districts had some concerns about the specifics of the bill. The Miscellaneous Subjects Committee working with primarily the Rural Electric Association developed amendments to take care of some of their technical concerns and I think we have established here a procedure that does enable there to be a uniform process across the State of Nebraska for the setting of rates that provides an opportunity for public comment prior to the adoption of those rates and provides for public notice. That simply is the intent of LB 457. One of the most objectionable sections of the bill was one that had rates being appealed to the Power Review Board. That was taken out. So all we are really dealing with is some procedures similar in concept to like a uniform budget act for subdivisions, similar to the uniformity in setting mill levies as far as procedures across the state and so on. That is all LB 457 does. I would move for its