

May 3, 1979

LB 461

attempts to strengthen that body or to make it more responsive and more effective. That relates to LB 461. I realize that we are going to be doing this study. We are going to look into the matter. We are going to include in that the NPPD problems and other situations that we have identified on the committee and do a broader look at the problem. I do think that LB 461 should be lifted out of committee, placed on General File so that when we come back next year, I don't think that we are going to get to it this year, plain and simple, but it ought to be ready to be acted on early next year because I think that you are going to find that is a good solution to the problems that we have in public power in this state. It ought to be ready to advanced so that we can deal immediately with some of those concerns. So I ask you very much to carefully consider this motion, and to help us lift that bill from committee, place it on General File and advance it, perhaps not this year but certainly next year, because I think that it is a good bill. I ask for your support.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kremer and then Senator Kennedy.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, I think that I owe, as chairman of the committee, owe the members of the legislature a review of what has developed up to this point and why the bill is locked in committee on a vote of four to four. It has already been stated that LB 461 has received a lot of attention, been given a lot of time in the committee. Senator Beutler was asked by the chairman to work with the various public power entities to see if some agreement could not be reached on this bill, simply because there was a split in the industry itself, and we were hopeful at least that perhaps some type of agreement could be reached. Senator Beutler did spend a lot of time and perhaps used other members of the committee in his work and he did come forth with amendments that were adopted and that helped the bill to a considerable extent, as far as I am concerned. But, after his amendments were adopted there still was opposition, difference of opinion, not only between the segments of the industry but also with the Power Review Board itself, at least as represented by those who spoke and were visible. So, even with the amendments there was a great deal of disagreement between the various entities in the public power industry. I personally feel that something needs to be done to strengthen the authority of the Power Review Board. We have been aware of this for a couple of years. This is why we have spend some money to try and get some outside help to have a look at public power in Nebraska