

would get to the Missouri River on their way into Nebraska, they would have to get permission from the Power Review Board to do that, but with five hundred million dollars invested at that point any question to the Power Review Board would be a moot question. There would be no way that that could be stopped once those agreements are in place and there is no need for any approval of the Nebraska Power Review Board for those negotiations to take place. The same thing is also true with municipal power plants within their own trade areas, or service areas, they need no permission of the Power Review Board. There are so many holes in that authority for the Power Review Board to do its job, that cutting it loose from the Water Resources Department may be an advantage, but it would appear to me, Senator Beutler, and colleagues of the Legislature, that if we are going to do anything with the Nebraska Power Review Board, that first of all we give it some authority and we give it very definite instructions what it is that it is to do. It is either to be a rubber stamp of public power in Nebraska...

PRESIDENT: One minute, Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: ...or it is to be a regulatory agency. If it is the latter, fund them, separate them and put them to work. If it is to be the former, just leave them alone and don't even spend the amount of money that it takes to print a bill. This is a big deal, and either take it as a big deal or just forget about it until you are ready to.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman and members, just very briefly in support of the bill. Going back into the history of this thing in 1963, I believe I am correct was the year that the Power Review Board was established. At that time it was placed under the jurisdiction of the Department of Water Resources, just like at one time the irrigation was under the Department of Roads and as time has gone on new responsibilities have been given to the Power Review Board by this Legislature. Now the procedure that has been followed in the past in a bill like this, a lot of transaction is just simply passing through, it takes a lot of time, a lot of paper work to go through the Department of Water Resources. It's not necessary, both agencies agree, and I think it is only good sense, it does save money, it does save paper work just to separate these two agencies with respect to the material that we are talking about in this bill.