

February 25, 1980

LB 863

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is to lay over the Kelly amendments and proceed with the Beutler amendments first. Is there any objection? If not, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Beutler has amendments on the bill. There are Beutler amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, Senator Beutler. The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, the amendments which I am proposing should be on your desk right now. They would just be a white copy, Request #2114. Basically, what the amendments do are not to increase the power of the Power Review Board, but to simply set out clearly the criteria that the Power Review Board should use in denying or approving applications for the construction of power generating plants. I want to be quite honest with you as to what these amendments are. Last year we had in the Public Works Committee a bill, 461. It was an extensive bill which had to do with power plant siting. It had to do with hearings before the local communities, before the location of power plants and load management rates and a number of other things. That bill was extensively amended and watered down but it still only got 4 out of the 5 votes needed to get it out of Public Works to advance. Subsequent to that vote, there were meetings with the industry and it was watered down some more. It was endorsed by LES and now it has been endorsed by the Municipal Power Pool, but subsequent to that now, I have further amended down the materials that were in 461 so that essentially now we are dealing with four or five propositions that originally came out of 461. So the general thrust again of the amendment is to give the Power Review Board more explicit power to require coordination and joint planning in the construction of power generating facilities. Now the board presently has the power to approve or disapprove the construction of facilities and they make a finding as to public convenience and necessity, and whether the construction is the most economical supply without duplication. So, all we are saying now is that in considering those two propositions and in reaching those findings, here are certain criteria that we think you should consider, that every reasonable utility in making its decisions should have considered. Okay, I might remind you just as a point of reference, the scale of the industry and what we are talking about. The Gerald Gentleman Plant, the first one; the Cooper Nuclear Plant; the Mandan Line; Comstock; Gerald Gentleman Two...each one of these facilities is on the scale

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