

April 1, 1981

LB 132

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 132 was a bill introduced by Senators John DeCamp and Remmers. (Title read.) The bill was first read on January 13. It was referred to the Public Works Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending, Mr. President, by the Public Works Committee.

SENATOR CLARK: The committee amendments, Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KREMER: Here I go. Okay. I will have to start out by saying that we have in LB 132 a bill or an agreement that has been worked on for four or five years. Three entities of public power were involved in this issue in an attempt to reach an agreement that would allow the munys to cooperate and work together for financing of a project. It has been difficult. I think at this point I would like to say that I think we owe it to Senator John DeCamp a vote of thanks for bringing this bill out and successfully getting it to where it is now. Furthermore, our committee did virtually what my Dad used to do when my brothers and I couldn't agree. He would lock us in our room and say you aren't coming out until you reach an agreement and that is about what happened here, and finally, we do have an agreement. I think there is a letter on your desk that backs up what I have just said and I will attempt to explain the simplest way I know how, and it does look complicated, the committee amendments do, but I will explain the simplest way I know how. What the committee amendments will do then, I will not move to adopt the committee amendments but I will provide some other amendments that would come in, I call them Kremer amendments, to the committee amendments and I will ask for their adoption. Now here is what the committee amendments do in their simplest form. It does three different things: Number one, it separates the agencies, that is, the power agencies and other agencies such as sewer or water or garbage agencies. It separates them. We have the power agencies as one group and the other, such as sewer and water, as another. It does that. Number two, it does place the power agencies under the relevant public power district laws. That is important. And number three, it does place the power agency under the jurisdiction of the Power Review Board and the laws that require arbitration of wholesale rates dispute, should there be some. Now those are the committee amendments. Now following are the amendments that I am offering because they came from the entities themselves. There are four of them. They make very clear that LB 132 agencies are political subdivisions, just as was intended in the original bill. Number two, it clarifies where and limits where public notices must be published. They must be published in a newspaper published at the agency's principal place of