

May 1, 1981

LB 181

CLERK: LB 181 was introduced by the Public Works Committee and signed by its members. (Read title.) The bill was first read, Mr. President, on January 14, referred to Public Works. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President, by the Public Works Committee.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, the Public Works Committee did introduce this bill. We did hold a hearing and then spent a great deal of time meeting with the power industry to work out various problems with the bill, and did come to a resolution of those problems, and that is what is found in the committee amendments. This bill is essentially a housekeeping bill for the Power Review Board and does a number of things which I will very briefly go through for you. First, it would clean up LB 863 which was passed last year and which made the Power Review Board independent from the Department of Water Resources. A great deal of the length of this bill is found in the fact that we had to go through the different sections of the Power Review Board and Department of Water Resources statutes and then make the reference changes we needed to refer to the Power Review Board. So that is just a technical change to reflect last year's legislation. We also changed section references throughout Chapter 70 which are incorrect. We require a biennial report instead of an annual report from the Power Review Board. This report would still have annual data. This reflects Senator Johnson's bill which also had a number of agencies going to biennial rather than annual reports, and I think that this is a much easier request of the Power Review Board than the annual report, although it would still keep the annual data which we need. It would...the bill would also extend jurisdiction of the Power Review Board to cover acquisition as well as construction of generation and transmission facilities. Now these are some jurisdictional gaps which we had found through an interim study this past year, and found that the Power Review Board really should have authority in this area, and should review those types of transactions, and so that is added to the jurisdiction of the Power Review Board. The bill would also require groups of municipalities to register with the Power Review Board and require such groups to interconnect with the rest of Nebraska's electric system and exchange power according to existing law. What we are trying to do here is deal with LB 132 in the munny power pool and trying again...this is sort of following up on LB 132. This will clean up some of the things that they didn't in that bill and reflect some of the changes in that