

May 5, 1981

LR 86
LB 209, 242, 95A, 400

CLERK: 27 ayes, 12 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to indefinitely postpone the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The bill is indefinitely postponed.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Nichol would like to print amendments to LB 242.

A new study resolution, LR 86 (read).

Mr. President, a new A bill, LB 95A. (Read title.)

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, the next bill, LB 400.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 400 (read title). The bill was read on January 20, referred to the Public Works Committee for hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending by the Public Works Committee, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, LB 400, I would like to explain the bill. LB 400 is a bill which is designed to use excess power which is available in the State of Nebraska, excess power which is now shipped to other states to be used by and sold to other utilities in other areas. This bill would make this power available to irrigators in the State of Nebraska at the same price that's been used in other states. Now a number of utilities have had a number of meetings in regard to this bill. Much of the concern about the bill stems from the fact that they think their particular utility or their class of utilities may be harmed by the bill, that they may be picking up more than their share of the cost. Repeatedly from the first introduction of this bill, I have assured the people that this is not the intent of the bill. We are building in all of the safeguards possible so that does not happen. The only thing that is to happen is to make the excess power available to these users in the State of Nebraska at the same price it is being used in other states by other utilities. The most recent meeting in regard to this bill was yesterday morning when a number of utility persons met to discuss the bill. Their suggestion was that the bill be held over until next year to give them time to work out the contractual arrangements in regard to the bill. My first inclination is not to go along with their thinking because I think the bill is necessary and could be passed on the floor of this Legislature. However, these people