

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the Unicameral, they have been working on this project for nine years. The bids were \$19,738,560 below the engineers estimate and if a decision is not made before May 30 the ratepayer plans to lose or will lose \$4,600,000 that has already been spent. One of the turbine generators is already being manufactured and it seems as though there are certain parties who are dragging their feet and I would call it nitpicking. This is far too important of an issue to everybody in the State of Nebraska as we know that there is a shortage in energy and it is going to continue to get worse and the reason we are introducing this resolution is to call to the attention of this body and to call to the attention of the citizens of the State of Nebraska and to call to the attention of the central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District and the Nebraska Public Power District, to ask them to sit down at the table and quit their fussing and get the issue done before the May the 30th and get it settled. That is the purpose of the resolution. They have done a fine job. Now we are down to the last few days and I think they should continue and I feel that this resolution, and I ask for your support in voting for it, will give them just a teeny-weeny, maybe push that they will sit down and get it straightened out and get the contract signed. Thank you, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle and then Senator Kremer.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker and members, I was not aware that this resolution was coming up or had been presented. I am highly in favor of it. I think that this is a generation of electricity that will take place at the time of the year when the waters from the reservoir are being used for irrigation and they are going down the penstock anyhow. I understand the dam was built with a penstock in it ready for hydro application if that time ever came and I think the time is here. So I think this is an excellent resolution. I support it 100% and hope that they go ahead and get this generating facility installed. Another thing that is good about it, it is not too far from the Gentlemen power plants and the power lines that come from them so they can hook into the grid system very easily and it would provide electricity at the time of the year when our peak is the highest. I think it is very necessary that this project be fulfilled and that they go ahead with it so I do support the resolution.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers, do you have an amendment to the resolution?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Vickers would move to amend