

That is what the bill does. I believe it is a good bill. I think we ought to advance the bill. I'll be happy to try to answer questions, but it is a very simple bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins, do you wish to speak on this bill?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Yes, Mr. President. Thank you. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I plead ignorance to this bill.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Don't feel lonely.

SENATOR HIGGINS: The bill is going to exempt certain parties from the federal antitrust laws?

SENATOR SCHMIT: It exempts public power districts, Senator Higgins. The U.S. Supreme Court has said that they cannot have blanket immunity, but the states can provide that immunity if we so chose. That is what the bill does. It allows the State of Nebraska to provide the public power districts with that kind of immunity.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Schmit, why do we want to give the public power districts immunity from the federal antitrust laws.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator Higgins, the State of Nebraska is the only, I believe, fully public power state in the nation. There are no private power companies in the state. As such the opportunity for antitrust violations are virtually nonexistent. It isn't a question of whether the public power district would take advantage of a private power district. There are no private power districts here. We actually have only two major public power districts. There isn't really any chance, in my estimation, for the entities to be guilty of antitrust violations. But this does recognize the public power policy of the State of Nebraska. I think that, because of our unique nature, we