

CLERK: Yes, sir. Mr. President, 949 was a bill introduced by Senator Schmit. (Read title.) Introduced in January, referred to Public Works, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President, by the Public Works Committee.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the body, the committee amendment to LB 949 provides that power or irrigation districts which do business in 50 or more...or 50 counties or less in the state may redistrict their boundaries based upon the total population or the number of electors within a district. Senator Hartnett has received an Attorney General's Opinion which indicates that the committee amendment to 949 may have constitutional problems. We are attempting to work out those problems and I am confident that we will but at this time I would ask you to adopt the committee amendment and that we will take care of the problem on Select File. I believe Senator Hartnett will make a comment that will be of interest to you and, therefore, I have no further comments at this time, just that we will work out the problem between now and Select File.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Hartnett, on the committee amendment.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes. Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I just want to read a statement into the record. In the interest of brevity, I would request that my amendment to the committee amendments be carried over into Select File for consideration at that time. I don't want to delay the progress of this important bill at this time in useless argument over whether or not the amendment should be adopted. The Attorney General has ruled that the proposed committee amendment is unconstitutional but I am informed that legal counsel for NPPD and OPPD and other public power districts are working on amendments to resolve the problem. I have been told that my concerns will be addressed by them. If, however, the problem has not been solved, I intend to argue very vigorously against the proposed provisions of the bill that would have condemned...that has been condemned by the Attorney General. Those amendments by OPPD, which would effectively disenfranchise half the residents of my