

March 27, 1974

SENATOR EPKE: Mr. President and fellow members, I think we've killed enough time on this bill. Let's have the vote.

PRESIDENT: The question is, do you want to lay the bill over. Twenty-five votes are required. All those in favor vote aye. All those opposed vote no. Have you all voted on the issue? The motion is to lay the bill over. Are you all through voting? Senator Lewis, if you're going to vote, I'll wait for you. All right, Clerk will record.

CLERK: 16 ayes, 25 nays, 7 not voting.

PRESIDENT: That motion's down the tube. Back to you, Senator Goodrich.

SENATOR GOODRICH: I move the adoption of my amendment to the Schmit amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right. Senator Carpenter, did you want to be heard now on the Goodrich amendment again?

SENATOR CARPENTER: I move the vote.

PRESIDENT: All right, let's make sure we get the lights out. Senator Schmit, we're speaking only on the Goodrich amendment now.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I have opposed the Goodrich amendment and I have given you the reasons why. It's been outlined here before and we can stand here tonight. We can castigate elected boards, directors and if someone says that an elected board of directors takes orders from the management, that's no one's fault but the elected board's. We have to have confidence in the elected system and it behooves those of us who are elected, I believe, to stand here and say yes we do have confidence in an elected board. All of this conversation in regard to dumping this authority into the lap of the Power Review Board is a lot of nonsense. They have no exceptional brilliance. How do they get their jobs? They're appointed by the Governor of the State of Nebraska. Does that make them any more wise, any more politically inexpedient or expedient? Than an elected person? I just...I just can't believe that this Body is going to stand here and say that yes, we're going to do this and this and this because an elected board won't function. Senator Lewis, there's a new district right out of his district, if he has an objection to the way it's being handled, there's some men that have filed for election to that board. Elect one of those men and he's got a voice on that board. There isn't any reason why we should stand here and try to throw out the baby with the bath water. And that's what we're doing. I come back to my original argument. And I..... Senator Carpenter can say that it will not cost more money but I would ask you this. If you go to the bank to get a loan and the banker says it's going to be an 8% rate and you say well, I've got to go back and check with someone else whether I can sell the cattle or sell the corn or what I'm going to do. He's going to take another look at it. He's going to find out who runs the business. Now in this case we're asking the New York bankers, the people who provide us with the money, we're asking them to say we have no confidence in the elected board, we're going to make the Power Review Board look this over. Now there were a group of public power districts who hired rate experts to supervise the rate making process of Nebraska Public Power. To look