

this amendment but specifically the \$48,000 appropriated out of the general fund and the taxpayers of Nebraska, as we would now stand, the citizens of Omaha would get about half of that in a reduction in their power rate of O.P.P.D. The citizens of Lincoln would get about 7½% of it because of a reduction in their power rate for the operation of Cooper Station plant. The citizens of Nebraska at large except for municipalities would get 17½% reduction of the cost because N.P.P.D. gets that much of the expense out of Cooper, but please listen to this now as we talk about where we are. One fourth of the appropriation for this money will go directly to the Iowa Power and Light Company in Des Moines, Iowa, an investor owned utility that would make that savings by the operation of the Cooper Station. I believe this to be completely the wrong thing to do. I believe this amendment in spending Nebraska taxpayer's money for the benefit of Iowa Power and Light is at the very least, against our onstitution. The merit in Senator George's proposal should be looked at very closely and probably by legislation and by bill we should cause local state independent investigation of the fallout around our nuclear plants but it should be paid by the rate payer that is paying for all the other expenses of that plant and should not under any conditions be paid for by a taxpayer on a tax bill. There is no other expenses that go to public power in Nebraska from taxes. Senator George's bill would be brand new plowed ground and taking Nebraska tax money and putting it in the public power entities in Nebraska. I would hope that Senator George would withdraw this amendment, but if not, please defeat it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, in regard to Senator George's amendment, I just might clarify one matter in that our public utilities all across the state are constantly monitoring nuclear discharge. It would appear to me and also I think that Senator Murphy has touched on the efforts of the State Department of E.P.A. whom I'm sure, although I am not sure, but I would suspect that they are as well constantly monitoring any nuclear discharge that might be emitted from any of these nuclear power plants. I guess my point to the members of the Legislature is simply this, I think the \$48,000 in state expenditure and the appropriation that would be needed to fund the two staff members and staff, whomever else might be involved, I think is unnecessary. I think that as far as the health and safety and welfare of this state is concerned, I think that this simply would be redundant, unnecessary and I certainly would hope that you would defeat the George amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer. Senator Fowler, do you wish to speak on this amendment?

SENATOR FOWLER: I rise to support Senator George's amendment and I think perhaps when we discuss it we should take it from the perspective that Senator George has and that is, he has a nuclear power plant in his district. Now only one other Senator in this Legislature has that and if Senator George finds that his constituents are nervous about that nuclear power plant and that those constituents have concerns about how well their health is being protected, I think we should listen to what Senator George is saying. I think we should be a little sympathetic to the situation he is finding himself