

March 27, 1979

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to believe that the power companies and those boards of directors that operate them were in favor of this bill. In looking at the... I believe you left that inference that the local people would be in charge of making the decisions. I take it you meant the local power boards otherwise no one else has anything to say about it so I think you did give the wrong impression because it says here in the outline of the hearing that the NPPD, the Lincoln Electric System, Wendell Gangwish with the Nebraska Farm Bureau and Dwight Trumble of Springfield spoke in opposition to it. I just wanted to correct that. I guess, Senator Chambers, the next nerd's words for the birds are for you because in my local community I work hard for the elderly. We set up many programs when I was a county supervisor and they are still operating. I was just asked to go back and speak at one of their functions next month so I am not that hard-boiled character that you are trying to make me out today. I do love young people also. I have eleven grandchildren and so I really take somewhat offense at that statement. I guess what really bothers me and we have another bill coming up I think yet this afternoon that I will have some more to say about but we have several ways of helping people in need, the least of which is the welfare program that we have and we all know about that but I think what you are trying to do with a bunch of these bills, especially this one, is trying to make welfare boards out of our utility system and any time you grant a special privilege just because of an inability to pay, old age, whatever it might be, it is a special privilege and perhaps that should be handled through the agencies that are supposed to handle that. I'm not going to talk very long. I think most of us have our minds made up. I think the thing that Senator Schmit said in the beginning and I am sorry he has perhaps changed his mind, I don't know. When we vote we will find out but this is a different situation for us in rural Nebraska. It is our lifeline, electricity is and when you say that we are ripping off the rest of the state, I take offense to that because we certainly are paying our way and you wouldn't have as cheap electricity as you have today if it weren't for the big use, the high use, the enormous use of electricity that we have in our farming operations today and in our elevators, in our meat packing plants and the various things that have to do with agriculture. Permissive, that is the word that I wanted to get to in closing. What in the world does permissive mean in our modern...well, maybe I hadn't better go any