

March 31, 1980

LB 954

are wholesale providers to let's say an REA, would they be able as Nebraska Public Power to loan to a consumer that is on the REA line? Which of them would in effect, control?

SENATOR DeCAMP: It could be through either, Senator. You may know that NPPD, as I recall, I can remember not that many years ago you used to put your water heater in and then pay NPPD so much per month. This same type of concept or plan.

SENATOR MUPRHY: So, actually, NPPD and I will use an REA, could both be eligible to serve the same consumer?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes, sir.

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would just like to rise in support of the amendments to LB 954. I don't do so feeling that they are the best possible amendments or that the bill as amended would be the best possible legislation for this state, but under the circumstances, I do think that it is the best we can do and that is something that I think we have to realize under the time constraints we have in this session, under the political pressures that we have seen concerning this legislation, and under a number of other factors which have led to the compromise which is before you with the proposed amendment. Let me emphasize to you the importance of the energy issue and I will be very brief about that because I think we are all familiar. We have before us rising interest rates that are getting completely out of hand. We have inflation as we have never seen it before. We have economic conditions that have been unparalleled in recent times in this country and you can point your finger to a number of reasons for this situation but probably the most fundamental and the most important reason that we are in the economic crisis we are in today is the energy crisis which has preceded the situation we are in in this country and nation. I believe that because of the economic crisis we are going to finally get some solutions to the energy crisis. Let's hope that that is what is going to happen with the passage of this legislation and with other legislation in the future but it has taken the energy problems that we have had to create the very serious economic crisis that we are now in. The importation of close to