

February 14, 1991 LB 45

SENATOR CONWAY: Senator Lynch, do you wish to speak? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, the reason that this bill went out of committee originally without Sections 2 and 3, which is what we are discussing, is because I was very uneasy with what was in there. Not with what Senator Schellpeper was trying to change because, honest to god, the surety bond we are trying to fix right here is a thousand dollar bond, which is absolutely ridiculous in terms of the kind of bond that should be applicable in this situation. And there were other provisions that just don't fit the modern world that we are dealing with. And that is why the bill came out of committee without Sections 2 and 3, but when we got into it, it became apparent that the situation is massive, a much larger problem, and it was decided not to take it on now but to do it in the interim, get the public power people together, and figure out some provisions with regard to bonding and insurance in certain areas that made some sense in today's world. Having decided to do that, then I wanted to restore to Senator Schellpeper's bill the original sections so that he could deal with these relatively minor items if he so chose, and I am still willing to do that but I don't think it is worth a big fuss. Senator Schellpeper has indicated, well, let's not...don't put the sections back in and we will think about it a little bit and see if Senator Withem can be assuaged, or if upon further examination, Senator Withem really has a problem, which is fair enough. I understand his concern because I think it is a concern that anybody would have in looking at the statutes overall. And so in light of that, I will withdraw the amendment to the amendment, which will leave you with Sections 2 and 3 of the bill completely eliminated, and we can discuss it further on Select File, if we so choose. Thank you.

SENATOR CONWAY: Thank you, Senator Beutler. We are now back to the committee amendments. Senator Beutler has withdrawn the amendment to the amendment, so we are on the committee amendments. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, I am sorry to be belaboring this bill but I do have another question about the bill, itself, and another area where I have an interest is these areas that trigger open bidding process, and I understand it, that is what...that is what Section 4 of this bill deals with, Section 5 of this bill, raising the limits from 50,000 to 100,000 before the full public