

Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Well, I...we shouldn't discuss 400 because that bill is no more...no longer alive, but I understand, from reading the Committee's statement, that the munies were opposed to this but were in support of that, and I'm wondering if the amended version satisfied them. That's my question, and I don't know if Senator Kremer can answer that, or perhaps Senator Lewis wants to speak to that, but I am concerned about it.

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President and Senator Carsten, I would respond that the Committee and the introducers both agreed to accept voluminous amendments, then attempt to make the bill workable. We accepted the Task Force amendments, Senator Kremer. We accepted two or three other amendments that, and certainly I don't think that made the league completely satisfied with the bill, and they in their own Executive Committee meeting as I understand, there was a split vote like sixteen to ten in terms of opposing the bill, and so there was a split internally there. I visited with Mr. Chambers. I visited with Mr. Rahl. I visited with Mr. Ballard, in terms of some negotiations of looking at some of the other issues, but we gave the best shake we could on this, and I think the munies are even divided in terms of the importance of opposing or supporting the bill, and that was reflected in their Executive Committee vote. It's like the song says, we've gone about as far as we can go, and the bill is necessary and I would hope that we could move it across now, and obviously there's a lot less heat on this issue than there's been on the floor of this Legislature in a long time in regard to this particular one.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kelly, do you have a comment you want to make?

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, particularly the introducers of LB 223, I'd like to read from the fiscal note on this issue. Since the establishment of the Nebraska Power Review Board in 1963, the Board has approved over four hundred service area agreements, and there are at least two parties to every agreement, and many times the service area agreement was not entered into voluntarily. It necessitated the Nebraska Power Review Board holding a hearing, and it took over three years to complete the majority of the service area agreements. In examining LB 223, it appears that it would be possible...in examining LB 223, it appears that it would be possible that the Nebraska Power Review Board might have to redo...that the Power Review Board might have to redo everyone of the previous service areas agreements, or at least