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LB 223

SENATOR DWORAK: Okay, thank you, Senator Lewis. So then, in fact, what one of the alternatives that can happen as I understand it then is if the city should annex, and because of this capital impediment, then within the city limits we are encouraging or fostering two suppliers of power within the same city. Is that not correct, and is that good public policy?

SENATOR LEWIS: Well, I'll certainly speak on my time to that issue and I want to address it, but let's get the issue down correctly. Who was there to start with? We're not starting new systems. The rural system was there to start with, and it wasn't served by the city because the city didn't want to because they couldn't make it come out in terms of numbers.

SENATOR DWORAK: Okay, thank you, Senator Lewis. I think the point is made though, and Senator Lewis is absolutely right, is that the rural system was there to start with to serve rural customers, but now these customers are no longer rural. These are now municipal customers. Now do you, does this body think it's good policy to provide dual distribution of power within city limits? And I think Senator Lewis said...was very clear, and very accurate in answering his question...in answering my questions, and I think that's one of the impacts of this bill. And this bill has not been debated to much extent and this bill has a lot of ramifications with it, and I think the point we've just brought out is probably the first time a lot of us have had an opportunity to think of that specific point. It's a problem and I understand what Senator Lewis and Senator Cullan are trying to do. And the rurals were there, and they were there for a specific purpose, and that was to serve those rural customers, but now we're changing the whole ballgame, and we're now saying that rurals have another purpose, and that other additional purpose is to serve municipal customers, and I question whether the rurals were ever originally intended to do that, number one, number two, that it's good public policy to have two specific power organizations within city limits, and I see that as a result of this bill. I think if we'd look, and I think there's a...some senators from Lincoln...

PRESIDENT: Time...one minute.

SENATOR DWORAK: Thank you, Mr. President. I think there are some senators from Lincoln that better just, and probably are more familiar with the development of LES than I've been, and the changes that resulted from that growth of the Lincoln Electric Service, and the ramifications of this bill in a similar situation. So these are some of the concerns I have that we haven't talked about and I think do need to be talked about. I think Senator Kelly is absolutely right in bringing