

March 27, 1979

LB 460

made the point, that this is a permissive bill. It doesn't mandate to the public power industry in this state that you have to have this type of a rate structure. All it is saying is under the wisdom of the public power districts and other entities in this state, if you should desire to make this change in your rate structure you will be allowed to. Is that unreasonable? I don't think so. Is that going too far? I don't think so and if they should take that step, if they should decide under this permissive act that it is in the best interest of the State of Nebraska to change the way they set rates for electricity and to encourage conservation and to change the ethics that presently state the more you use, the less you pay and I think that is ridiculous right now under our present conditions. Then is that so bad? Is that wrong? I don't think so. I think under the conservation I think that has made Nebraska the state that it is. This is a positive piece of legislation. It says that when you use more you should not necessarily have to pay less. Maybe there is a different way to go about setting rates in this state and I think it would be absolutely irresponsible for this body to kill this bill at this point. I think it would be irresponsible to kill this bill at all because I think it really does some good things for this state. It helps the people of this state that are least able to help themselves. Walking door to door and meeting with the people in my district one of the biggest problems they face is having to pay that monthly electricity bill. You know it too. You feel it too. You have to pay those bills. They are skyrocketing. They are incredible and why can't we help them a little bit? Why can't we tell them that you save a little. You cut down a little bit and down in that base load that you are using and those minor expenses and kilowatts that you have to use, you are going to be paying a little less. Get a little break for using a little less. Is that wrong? I don't think so. I really hope you will seriously consider this bill. I hope that you will oppose the kill motion. I hope that you will give it a chance and I hope that you will realize and remember that this is not mandating this change. I would like to see it mandated but it doesn't mandate. It says if you want to change in this direction you are going to be allowed to and I don't think that is wrong and I hope that you will support the bill and oppose the kill motion.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Will the Clerk read the motion on the desk?