

April 9, 1979

LB 457

SENATOR GOODRICH: Mr. President, members of the body, this is a public utility rate setting bill and yet it did not get referred to the Public Works Committee. We are dealing with the subject once a week in that committee there. I am going to suggest to you that we cannot coordinate public utility legislation in this state by sending the bills to other committees and having it come out of several committees. I think frankly that this particular bill dealing with public utilities should be referred to the Public Works Committee to be coordinated with the other public utility legislation that we are going to be coming up with. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: I have several lights on. I don't know whether they want to talk to the Goodrich amendment or not but in the order that I have them, Senator Kelly, did you want to speak to his amendment? Senator Schmit.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, I can speak on the amendment.

SENATOR NICHOL: Pardon.

SENATOR KELLY: I can speak on the amendment, yes, or the motion. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would support returning this LB 457 to the Public Works Committee. As an example on my sheet I have three questions that I would want some answer for my understanding, and not knowing who to address this to, I would address it to the Public Works Committee but how does the system work now? How are the people notified? How do they arrive, what do they use, as in this amendment as I understand, it very specifically says what is a minimum of what may be used as "evidence" in order to raise the rate? Exactly how does the system work now? Now are the electrical rates in Nebraska at this moment being improperly set without the advantage of LB 457? Will LB 457 lower or hold down electric rate increases or is it an added expense that will raise the electric rates in Nebraska. Now these to me are very important questions and nobody has talked of them yet on this floor, such as, public power districts hold meetings for their contracted customers and for their retail customers and have been doing so for years and that should be interjected into this debate. Colleagues, in order to get an understanding of that area, this bill should be looked at by the Public Works Committee who has a history of expertise in working with the electric power districts and the electric power industry in our state. I solidly support Senator Goodrich's motion.