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LB 461

feasible method of supplying power. Those are the basic ideas involved in the bill, the bill with some subcategories under those ideas. One of the main points that I wanted to get across is that the bill as it would be amended, as I view it personally, is not at all a radical proposal. I would submit as evidence of that the fact that LES who is the third largest power entity in the state, in terms of sales, has worked with us on the bill and has approved of the bill in its amended form. So, it is not something that is not acceptable to industry or to that part of the industry that is willing to work with us. I might also point out that to some extent the bill only sets out in statute what the Power Review Board has the power to do in fact now. The Power Review Board grants certificates of public convenience and necessity. Under that power, theoretically at least, if the issues were raised, if the very issues contained in this bill were raised they could consider and decide those issues under the category of whether the plant was necessary. This bill does give them additional power though in the sense that it makes explicit certain items that they can and should and must look for.....

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING:

SENATOR CLARK: One minute Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER:..in considering an application. I'll skip over a couple of points that Senator Simon and Fowler have made. I might just say in closing that I think a real need has been demonstrated for this bill. The O'Brien and Gear Report which came out in 1976 on the Power Industry indicated that there was a need for one power supply planning body. It talked about fragmentation in the industry and it seems to me that the Power Review Board is the logical planning body or at least the logical body to insure the planning gets done in the power industry. This same O'Brien and Gear report recommended the consolidation for efficiency of the retail sector of the industry, it recommended consolidating the generating and transmission sectors of the industry. It recommended in short a great deal of consolidation in the industry generally. This bill that we are talking about says nothing about consolidation and is a very modest proposal....

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER:.....to give the Power Review Board a little more authority in coordinating construction of power generating facilities.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.