

contract on the Fort Calhoun Nuclear Plant that stopped that project without any advance warning of any kind, and it was no more in the works. The resulting lawsuits as you followed in the newspaper ran into millions and millions, some place around thirty, I think, to the cost of the ratepayers in the Omaha Public Power District. But that is just the start of the costs, because listen to the end result. NPPD builds onto Gerald Gentleman. They still need that same power that they would have gotten out of Fort Calhoun. Grand Island built a power plant because they needed the power that they could get out of Fort Calhoun. So did Hastings build a power plant, and so did the Omaha Public Power District. What would have been in the ten-year planning, Fort Calhoun that was in place through the Power Review Board's lack of power, this coordination fell all apart by the votes of the directors of OPPD. I believe entirely in the directors of OPPD operating their system. I object strenuously...I object strenuously to the directors of OPPD running the power in the City of Grand Island. I would object strenuously for the City of Grand Island to run the power in Doniphan, Nebraska. There has got to be a state coordinator, the Power Review Board, to straighten out these arguments and these problems, and at this time the Power Review Board needs every help it can get, and it needs Chris Beutler's amendments...Senator Beutler's amendments to LB 863. Please support these amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President and members of the body, I have to stand in support of Beutler's amendment. I have done quite an extensive study also in regard to power in Nebraska, and it is just like the Dunn Report, it is in a bad state of affair. It needs a lot of corrections and straightening out. Right now, the way I understand, Brownville is down, Sutherland is down, Fort Calhoun is down, and we have still got plenty of power. Why are we building more power plants? It scares me. I have done a little arithmetic on this and if you will check it out, I think you will find that we are in debt on public power right now twenty-five hundred dollars for every man, woman and child in the State of Nebraska. I think we have got plenty of power here if we would coordinate it. We need some coordinated effort and I can see no one besides the Power Review Board that can do this. We need all the teeth we can give them. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members of the Legislature,