

amendment that this body adopted on General File. It makes it more clear of the intentions and also makes it so that the districts would be able to follow the intentions of the amendment we adopted on General File. In particular the advertising section has been clarified so that when the district advertises to negotiate a contract that it does not necessarily have to follow the procedures set forth in 75-637 which would seem to indicate that they did have to have a contract for a specified amount. So it does clarify that language. Also it clears up the language regarding advertising the three days over a twenty day period, and when you are advertising in perhaps a daily or a journal, that possibly could be the last three days of the twenty day period. This clarifies that also. The portion that Senator Wesely mentioned to you that also makes it clear that if it is by an order of a regulatory body which would prevent compliance with the previous sections requiring sealed bids, this makes it clear that in the case of the nuclear power plants when the nuclear regulatory commission issues orders that would be very difficult, if not impossible, for the districts to comply with through the sealed bid process, then they may, in fact, simply advertise for negotiations. This amendment I would point out to the body has been approved by the various sides involved, NPPD, OPPD, the various districts. Also I think it has had the approval of many of the labor unions that have been involved with this bill from the start. I would urge the body's support of Senator Wesely's amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, do you wish to speak to the Wesely amendment to 178 (sic)?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Wesely, this amendment applies only to the power districts, is that right? Thank you. I would just like to point out that I received a phone call this weekend from an engineering firm. They happen to be, I believe, a disappointed bidder for the privilege of providing engineering estimates upon the construction of a dam for a Natural Resources District. It told me the engineering cost of that structure to be allowed is somewhere in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million dollars and that no bids are necessary for the Natural Resources District when soliciting a firm to do the blueprints on this type of a structure. Do you see any necessity, Senator Wesely or Senator Vickers, I would ask either one of you, in taking a look at the entire bid process because it is obvious to me that if an engineering firm can submit a bid for a quarter of a million dollars without any kind of competitive bidding, that there might very well be an opportunity here for the Natural Resources District to secure a construction cost which would not be in keeping with the lowest possible cost? Have you given this