

any thought as to looking into that possibility of expanding your suggestions, Senator Vickers?

SENATOR VICKERS: Senator Schmit, I had not looked at the bidding statutes dealing with Natural Resources Districts so I am not familiar with what is required under those statutes. However, I would certainly be in agreement with you that perhaps they should be looked at. This, LB 34, however, deals only with public power districts and I would hope that the question or the problem that you bring forth, perhaps these sections here where we are dealing with where they can negotiate for contracts, if indeed the exact dollar figure is not able to be determined, I would assume that in many cases maybe the engineering contract would be of that nature. I would hope that this would allow them then to negotiate those contracts so that it wouldn't be just a simple matter of giving it to one particular firm, in the case of the public power districts, at least.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you. I would just like to point out again the individual who called me stated that the cost of the engineering estimate to be awarded would be in the neighborhood of a quarter of a million dollars, that was being awarded without bid, and that they were not being given an opportunity to bid and, therefore, the implication was that the bid that would be submitted on the construction project in total could very well be not the lowest possible bid. So I think if we are going to limit the various types of contracts to a \$50,000 range, then we should take a look at it clear across the board and I will be glad to visit with you about that at a later time, Senator Vickers.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR VARD JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I have a question of Senator Wesely, if he would rush back to his microphone.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Can you provide me the rationale, Senator Wesely, for requiring the advertisement of those transactions where sealed bids will not be sought, where the local power district decides very simply that under the circumstances that exist in that particular case, they will award a contract to somebody notwithstanding the absence of sealed bids? They are still required under your amendment to publish notice three times of their intention of doing exactly that. Can you provide the rationale for that particular disclosure