

requirement.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, the reason is that presently they don't have any requirement whatsoever to bid on maintenance-repair contracts, reconstruction or remodeling. This would put that in there. The present policy is that when they want to sit down and negotiate one of those contracts, they don't have to advertise for it, they don't have to do anything, and they, basically, can at their discretion pick out any companies that they would like to sit down and talk to and not have to solicit any sort of negotiations with any, say, Nebraska companies or any out state companies. What we are trying to do, essentially, Senator Johnson is say that if you are going to take this extreme step and not bid on a repair-maintenance contract, you have to at least give other companies an opportunity to know that you are going to not bid on it, that you are going to negotiate, and give them a chance to identify the fact that they could negotiate for this particular contract and contact the power district and offer to sit down with them and work out some sort of a bid on it. It is an attempt to get at the main problem that we have had, and that is Nebraska companies, Nebraska contractors who are capable and able to carry out some of the contracts that have been let by power districts on repair-maintenance have not even been informed about the fact that those contracts were going to be negotiated. This at least gives them a chance to know about it and then a chance to negotiate.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Okay, incidentally, Senator Wesely, what are the existing requirements right now even in the absence of LB 34 plus the amendments for advertising bids on construction work, do you know?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes, it is exactly the same requirements that are provided for in the repair-maintenance contracts. That is to say that they have to advertise in one daily newspaper of general circulation within the district for three consecutive issues within a twenty day period or so. And then they also are encouraged to use trade journals and other newspapers to advertise. That is their discretion though.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: All right. So actually these amendments don't represent any significant change to existing practices?

SENATOR WESELY: No, essentially it would be exactly the same practice applied to the repair-maintenance contracts which now are covered which weren't before.