

April 1, 1981

LB 132

SENATOR CLARK: Motion passed. The amendments are adopted. Senator DeCamp, on the bill.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I am hopeful that we will have a minimum of discussion and the bill will advance and I have an obligation to read something in the record. All the various parties have agreed and I will read that and then I will touch on the bill. "LB 132, Municipal Cooperative Financing Act as amended Statement of Legislative Intent. LB 132 is designed to allow those communities who have historically generated or purchased the major portion of their electric power and energy from other sources than public power districts to supply such municipalities customers and to do collectively what they can now do individually. LB 132 is not designed to create a new competitive situation that the Legislature has dealt with in the past and which was eliminated through the restructuring of certain power districts in 1970." Mr. President, members of the Legislature, LB 132 truly does represent a milestone, I think, in legislative accomplishment, achievement, of settling issues. For five solid years, this has been one of the issues that has hugged, tugged and pulled and torn the Legislature apart and torn the power industry apart and made it impossible to go ahead on a number of things that might be developed in the future. LB 132 represents the final solution, so to speak, to the perennial fight of the power industry over the financing of power, and then it goes beyond that, it allows two or more units of government to join together in financing other projects. So you could see this being used in the future for low head hydro dams. You could be seeing it used for development of the use of water as a geothermal water from western Nebraska to heat entire towns. You could see it being used for any number of things. It is a settlement, I don't know what else to say, other than that all the various sides, NPPD, the munys, the rurals, all the ones that were traditionally cutting each other's throats have piece by piece, step by step, been forced, all reluctantly, to settle this issue and this is the settlement. And it is a very complicated, technical thing. I wouldn't dream of trying to explain it very far in terms of the technicalities.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMER: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I will be brief and try not to be too redundant. First, I am not taking any credit for the bill. I did designate it as my priority. It does seem to be quite important to the municipalities in the 1st Legislative District as well as many other places in the state and so I am endorsing the bill and I hope that it will move forward. As I say,