

April 28, 1981

LB 132

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I probably will sound a little bit redundant but I do think it needs to be repeated. We do have a representative form of government in our country. Many things are much too complicated to have the people vote on every issue that comes up. I am not opposed to having the voice of the people heard, but the best way for the voice of the people to be heard is through their elected representatives. There is no way in this country that we can run everything with a vote of the total population. There are times when projects of this type that will be involved in this legislation would delay, would increase cost, would make things cumbersome and perhaps defeat, some very well laid plans that would benefit a community. I think we have to remember that this is a representative form of government and we do have to rely on our elected officials. A way to avoid the problems, and this is, the next election be sure you elect new public officials. I would urge you to vote against the amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am very pleased that Senator Beutler has brought this amendment to us and I think that it is worthy of our consideration. I appreciate the fact that this bill has been one that has been worked on heavily, Senator Kremer, and that for many years the Public Works Committee has fought this battle. I know every year since I have been in the Legislature there has been a fight between the different entities over this particular issue, but I still do not think that that should be reason enough for us to proceed to adopt this bill without Senator Beutler's amendment. I don't disagree with the intention that we should leave the situation as is as far as not requiring a vote of the people as far as power projects are concerned. But when we are talking about making major commitments of capital and resources, long term commitments that can bind a city, a small city for generations, for many, many years, then I think it is only prudent of us to have this vote of the people. So I think Senator Beutler's amendment is one that we should support and I would ask you to support the Beutler amendment and return the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wesely and then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I think that Senator Beutler has hit on something here and I think it ought to come to our attention. This bill has got more in it than I think any of us realizes. As it was introduced essentially last year...well, it was