

two years ago, Senator Merz had two bills in. One dealt with the question of cooperative financing for power projects. The other bill dealt with broader authority that included power projects but also included sewer and all these other things that we were just talking about. Well, I had the impression that this bill dealt with only the power projects, but, in fact, this bill deals with an across the board authority for municipal joint financing, and I am not so sure that looking back at the hearing on this legislation in the Public Works Committee that this was really discussed in any sort of detail at all. And I think, you know, I am just wondering at this point what is in this bill any more. The concern that Senator Beutler expresses may be wrong and may be right. Maybe the amendment does not serve the purpose that it is intended to, but raising the issue is certainly wise. I think we have to look very carefully at this legislation. He questioned the broad authority that it allows. I don't think that there was much problem with some of the details worked out on public power financing. I thought that is really what the bill was dealing with. But these other areas of joint financing, why we haven't had much of a hearing on that, and we haven't had much discussion about that and I, as a committee member, must confess that I guess we must not have looked into it in the detail we should have because that had not come to my attention before. So I think that we ought to seriously discuss this matter and seriously discuss whether or not that authority is indeed proper at this point to allow the municipals to jointly finance all these different projects as well as power projects.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, I respectfully oppose the amendment. It is a very substantive amendment, and indeed when Senator Wesely says this is a big bill, it is. It involves the future of energy financing, and I repeat the word energy financing in the State of Nebraska. It also represents a settlement among all the various entities, munies, rurals, so on and so forth, that have been fighting over this particular issue for I guess four or five, six years now. Now, how does that relate to the particular amendment? One of the big, big controversies, in fact, I would say one of the biggest stumbling blocks of all was whether the munies were going to be under power laws, and if they wanted to be in the power business, were they going to be under the power laws of the state like other power companies? Finally they settled and compromised essentially and said, okay, if that is what it takes to get the financing, we will go under the power law, and that is what it is, they are under it for that particular purpose. Now, what, as I