

March 8, 1982

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and that was about two years ago when we had the big controversy about the Gerald Gentleman Power Plant, remember the overruns that were involved there, the big controversy about what had happened. Well, the Public Works Committee and a special committee including that committee were formed to look at the problem. We spent a lot of time at it. We had several hearings and I think we got a lot of good information. Senator Vickers did a great job working primarily on that subject for the committee. We were then able to last year pass LB 34 that I think tremendously improved the bidding process involved in public power district contracts and I think we have a far better bidding system as a result of that that deals with reasonable bidders and that sort of thing that we were having a problem with at the NPPD plant and that cost ratepayers a lot of money. This is the same situation. We are having a problem with the bidding process in our Roads Department. The Public Works Committee again is involved. The time we are going to spend on it I think is going to be time well spent and out of it we should be able to see legislation similar to what we passed last year that hopefully will improve the system and take care of some of these problems so they won't happen again. We are never totally going to eliminate the problem. I think it is clear, we always have to be vigilant and always provide the oversight they need. Nevertheless, a study like this is important and without it our legislative committee and our Legislature, all of us, would not be able to make the sort of decisions that will improve the situation and prevent the problem in the future. So I think it is absolutely the case that we should study this matter. I think it does not preclude in any way whatsoever what the Attorney General is doing, what the federal government is doing. Those investigations will continue. We are not trying to preempt those. What I see as happening is taking information provided from those investigations, using it in committee to try then to further study the question in terms of statutes, in terms of the law, what we can do to deal with the problem, and we're not doing our own separate investigation, then I don't think we can possible have that authority or the ability to do that. I see us more following what I think Senator DeCamp is trying to accomplish, making sure every situation is looked into and that we reveal totally the situation and take the appropriate action to make sure that the problem is solved. So I totally oppose the kill motion and would support the resolution.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think I have witnessed the two most incredible actions

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