

public power districts able to use the ATV vehicles to go out to check lines, to cross roads. In case of a storm or an outage, they now use these vehicles to go out to check their lines. This does not open it up for anybody else. It's strictly for public power districts. Right now, they are using these vehicles in emergencies but it is illegal to operate on the roadways after we passed the bill in 1987. So I want to make the point very clear that this is strictly for public power districts. If there are any questions, I would be glad to answer them.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Elmer, please, then Senator Barrett, please.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Mr. President. I appreciate Senator Schellpeper introducing this bill and allowing me to co-sponsor it. Out in the southwest Nebraska areas the roads are very sparse in many areas and the lines that the public power districts have to service, transit, pastures, fields and lots of areas that the access is very poor, and also many of the meters that they need to read are off of the public access roads and they have to go back into the fields and such. The use of the ATVs allows these public power districts much better transportation to inspect their facilities and is a bill that I think that they really do need. And it was well stated by Senator Schellpeper that it does not give any leniency in any other area. And I would urge your support. It will save these public power districts considerable time, man hours and, therefore, reduce their budgets somewhat if they are allowed to use these convenient vehicles for that purpose. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Speaker Barrett, please, then Senator Moore.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. President, and members, as Senator Schellpeper has just described, the bill does allow personnel of electric utilities companies to use ATVs on public roads and with the committee amendment, I understand, only during the course of their employment. This is a bill which does allow an exemption to the bill which I introduced in 1987 which disallowed the use of ATVs on public roads, with the exception of parades and for agricultural uses. At that particular time, I did warn the body that there would be attempts to create exemptions and this is the first bill that we're discussing this session which does, in fact, create an exemption. That concerns me. However, with the amendment