

counties of this state. And to think that adequate public notice in their mind of their meetings was to let the Columbus Telegram run a little notice, in my mind is a total breach of public trust. And obviously the court agreed with that and awarded against NPPD. Well that court action is leading to this piece of legislation and definitely we need to do something about this problem. I, for one, plan not to try to further amend this legislation. But I do understand that representatives of NPPD, Nucor and perhaps others will be looking at this issue for further amendment on Select File, and I want to provide that warning to you and also alert you to the fact that this bill is perhaps a bigger issue than it's being made out to be. How our public power districts deal with the public is a very important issue, because they are our power districts, they are not private entities. They are elected by us, they are owned by us and they ought to respond to the public perhaps more than they have in the past to let us know what they are doing and why they're doing it. To think that public notice is adequate with one small town newspaper, when the district covers most of the state, seems to me to really not be representation of what I would consider true public notice. So I don't have a particular way to improve this at this time. The bill does, I think, take a step in the right direction, but I think we've got a problem here perhaps bigger than this bill currently addresses. I, for one, want to look at this legislation further on Select File. I just wanted to share that concern with you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Further discussion on the advancement of the bill. Senator Schmit, followed by Senators Abboud and Schellpeper. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I am deeply appreciative of my good friend, Senator Wesely, alerting you to the possible chicanery, et cetera involved in this bill. It's not often that we have such a dedicated public servant who has so much knowledge of a power industry that he can always, of course, spot this sort of clandestine operation. But we are indeed twice blessed here, I guess, in some of these instances. But I'd just like to say this, I do share with him some of the concern that he has expressed relative to adequate public notice. And we have agreed upon some amendments to the bill which we think...we have not agreed upon them, we have agreed, Senator Robak and myself have talked about this, that there are some concerns that are going to try to be addressed by the