

February 14, 1991 LB 21, 45

purpose for the bracket motion. As I said, it is not a delaying tactic. It is simply a tactic to try and give us some sense of how to proceed with funding of water quality projects that are being addressed in this bill, LB 21.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Johnson. Is there any objection to the Coordsen motion to bracket LB 21. Seeing none, it will be so ordered by unanimous consent. Proceed with LB 45.

CLERK: Madam President, LB 45 was a bill introduced by Senator Schelipeper. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 10, referred to the Natural Resources Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments pending by the Natural Resources Committee. (See AMO115 on page 491 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Madam President and members, this bill contained four basic parts to it. The first was to allow public power districts to include all or parts of two or more counties. It also allowed for a district to file for a proof of insurance which would provide coverage in regard to directors against the loss of the districts sustained through fraudulent or dishonest acts of the director or the treasurer. It eliminated the necessity to publish the salaries of the general manager, the president, the vice-president, and all officers of the public power district, and it also raised the level from 50 to 100 thousand dollars before a project must be let for bids. The committee decided to strike the portion dealing with the publishing of the salaries. It was felt that since these are public employees, that their salaries should be made available to the public and should be printed. I don't necessarily agree with that but the committee chose to take that part out of the bill. We also had some concerns with the proof of insurance, and I think Senator Beutler has some amendments that have been worked on in that particular area because the statutes were rather poorly written or rather vague and so we struck, I think, Sections 2, 3, and 4 of the bill. That is what the committee amendments dealt with. Most of that dealt with the proof of insurance and the printing of the salaries. What is included in the bill at this point, the changing of the election districts, that was something we felt did need to be addressed, and also raising the bid process from 50 to 100 thousand dollars, because