

April 1, 1992

LB 573, 1176

Senator Bernard-Stevens. Senator Bernard-Stevens would move to suspend Rule 7, Section 3(d) so as to permit consideration of amendment number 3882.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Bernard-Stevens.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. First of all, I want thank Senator Baack for giving me the opportunity to make this motion on his bill and also Senator Wehrbein and the others that are...Senator Robak, that are a part of 573. To make the...this particular amendment and, so that the body knows what I am going to attempt to do, I'm going to attempt to suspend the rules, which I need 30 votes, to have this...to have a particular amendment offered. I would then, if there was enough votes to suspend the rules, offer the amendment, return the bill for a specific amendment, which the amendment you see on your desk, and I'd like to just take a few minutes to explain why we are at this particular point and why the amendment would be very, very helpful in getting us further. Since I've been in the Legislature, I've had an interesting give and take with some of the power and irrigation districts in Nebraska, particularly, for example, on FERC relicensing and what we're doing on FERC relicensing, how much money we're spending, are we going where we need to go and what have you. In fact, we've had...we've had discussions on proper representations and whether we should merge and what have you. In fact, this year I introduced a bill, 1176, that came out of the Natural Resources Committee and is sitting on General File with a Speaker priority bill which I suspect we will not get to because of the pace of the Legislature. But out of the discussions of the merger bill in committee there became a focus and I think Senator Beutler and my good friend, Senator Elmer, and others talked about the concept of representation and expanding of representation and is it a good thing to have districts expand representation so that they can get not only a broader feedback but also have much better communications between people who are...may not necessarily be directly served but certainly would be directed affected. Since that hearing there has been considerable discussions and movement in particular with Tri-County, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation Districts, and conversations and discussions about doing exactly that--expanding the base of representation. In fact, it's to the point that they've had discussions with the Power Review Board in looking at various options. One of the ideas that was proposed that very well may be presented to the