

February 23, 1995 LB 828

committee amendment to this bill, LB 828?

SPEAKER WITHEM: The...part of the committee amendment that was being discussed would make this bill...the powers of this bill for negotiated rates applicable only to projects that meet the same investment and job creation levels that the other two bills create.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And I may ask you another question, but I want to ask Senator Beutler a question. Senator Beutler, what was the committee's rationale for adopting the amendment which it proposed and which was adopted by the body?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I think you should ask the various members of the committee, Senator Chambers. But if I had to give...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, I mean, was it...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...my understanding of it, it would be that the effects of a broad bill could be very far-reaching, the industry itself is changing, that is there are independent power suppliers now and there are questions arising as to how they will relate to public power suppliers, and it may well be that there's a kind of competition developing for companies that produce a lot of electricity, and...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, now here's my...

SENATOR BEUTLER: ...do we need to liberalize public utility law in order to allow utilities to give better rates to companies generally in order to compete. There are all kinds of questions mixing into this.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, but here's the point that I want to get to so I can ask you the question, if this Micron project were not on the horizon, would this bill have been advanced by the committee, do you think, 828?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I don't think it would have appeared this year, but I do think, Senator, that in the course of the next five to ten years probably some requests from the utilities to deal more competitively with independent suppliers would be forthcoming and it would probably involve the kinds of things that are being allowed by this bill. But in the short-term the