

February 23, 1995 LB 178, 344, 768, 828, 846

would like me to announce Transportation Committee is holding an Executive Session in Room 2022 now. Transportation in Room 2022 now. A few items for the record. Senator Schellpeper would like to withdraw LB 768. Banking, Commerce, and Insurance Committee gubernatorial confirmation report. Senator Schellpeper, amendments to LB 344. Banking Committee reports LB 178 to General File; LB 846. indefinitely postponed. That's all that I have, Madam President. (See pages 851-55 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you. Senator Hall, your light is next.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President, members. The...I appreciate Senator Wesely's comments because they do ring somewhat true. The irony of this type of proposal, not the amendment but the bill itself, is that many of the folks who would support this proposal and this package of proposals and would use public power as a vehicle by which to attract companies, use it as a benefit package, would be the first to say, and they have, many of them in the past, that we should sell our public power districts. The government's purpose is not to be involved in providing utility services, that it would be better off, more economical, that it could be better run if it were in the hands of private enterprise. They would argue that government does not do a good job in this area, they are not efficient when in fact the purpose behind it is for those individuals to be able to make money, make money for themselves, for their shareholders, for whoever would be a partner or an investor in that operation. But since we haven't gotten around to those proposals yet, and I will argue that not the issue of this bill coming in five or ten years down the road, Senator Beutler and Senator Lindsay, with regard to dealing with this outside of the Micron urgency, that the bills that will come in and that will be proposed are bills that say let's privatize our public power districts, let's privatize our local utility districts. And those proposals have been floated, they've been floated for years. They have actually come back around a number of times but very much in the not too distant past, the last two to three years, you will see it crop up time and time again in articles and editorials and speeches that individuals give that are the same folks who endorse, support and push for the kinds of proposals that are embodied in this group of bills. So for us to say on one hand that we believe that that...public power is fine when we can use it to this extent, in other words when we can use it as a...as a hook by which we can offer additional