

further consideration.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Beutler, to open on the resolution.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Withem, members of the Legislature, the operative provision of the resolution is very short, it basically says simply that the Legislature opposes the sale, transfer, exchange, lease or other disposition of the Western Area Power Administration due to the significant fiscal impact such a sale would have on Nebraska ratepayers. The suggestion for this resolution was brought to the committee by the utility industry in this state who very strongly believes that such a sale would have an enormous adverse impact on the ratepayers in the State of Nebraska. To give you a little background, I think most people are vaguely familiar with the...with the power system, in particular the hydroelectrical system, the dams and the electricity that's generated by those dams that were constructed in the early years of this century by the United States government, largely benefiting many areas of the country, but largely benefiting the western and central states in the country. In recent years, over the years they've had different kinds of marketing organizations related to those power dams, but in recent years they've restructured and there are, I think, five different marketing administrations for different regions of the country associated with dams constructed in those particular regions and responsible for the marketing, primarily responsible for the marketing of the power that comes out of those particular regions. The Western Area Power Administration is the region from which we get most of our hydroelectric power that comes through the system. I've handed out to you a handout, the first page of that handout shows you basically where the Western Area Power Association is, they refer to it as WAPA, and that's how I'll refer to it hereafter. The second page of that resolution shows you where the other power areas are and gives you some information about those areas; and then the third page shows you, in a little more detail, where the power plants and the hydros are actually located in the WAPA area, to give you a picture of what we're talking about. And then following that is some information regarding the state agencies in different areas of the region, including many of our own who get power directly from...from this particular system. The WAPA organization is itself divided into regions, and most of our power that we get in Nebraska comes from what's called the Pic-Sloane Missouri Basin program, which basically consists of a series of dams in South Dakota, and I think at last one in