

Montana. And it is the eastern division of this Pic-Sloane program that accounts for almost all of the sales of power to the State of Nebraska. So that's what we're talking about, power coming out of South Dakota and Montana, hydros, hydroelectric facilities that are sold to the different utilities in the State of Nebraska. There is, as part of the handout, a page showing the power coming from the Pic-Sloane Project and then another page showing you the percentage of power that is obtained by different major utilities in Nebraska, showing you what percentage of their power they get from WAPA sources. And you can see that, as between firm power and peak power, about 70...17 percent of our power comes from that source. The final handout breaks down for you an estimate by the Municipal Power Pool as to how different cities in Nebraska would be affected by a sale of the WAPA power administration to private sources. And that can give you some idea of how they came up with the \$50 million figure that they figure it would cost ratepayers in Nebraska annually if the federal government carried through with its proposition. The final two pages of the handout outline for you some of the problems that the local utility people see with the sale of the facilities to private entities. The utilities rightfully point out I think that the sale of the facilities would be a one-time gain for the federal government, but would not do anything to solve their ongoing budget problems. And, finally, that not only would it not do anything to solve their budget problems, but it would be a great detriment to those who are currently benefiting from this system. It's a system that, in the estimate of some pretty cost-efficient, conscious people, works very well. It's a system that pays for itself, the principal, the interest, the operating expenses, the maintenance expenses are all paid for by the people who use the system. The interest rate is low, but the system pays for itself and has been paying for itself. So I think that it behooves us and is certainly worth our while to make known to the federal government that this is an area that we do not want them to be fooling around with, that there are other areas that we prefer they fool around with and leave this area alone because it works and because it benefits Nebraska tremendously. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Any discussion? Senator Beutler, you seem to have answered all of their questions, there's no discussion. You have a closing?

SENATOR BEUTLER: This is truly disappointing, Senator Withem.