

the committee amendments are one part of the bill and, basically, constitute a new and updated policy, energy policy statement for the State of Nebraska. And that, basically, is Senator Preister's work and I am going to ask him to talk about that in just a minute. To save time, I think we can discuss the whole bill in the discussion of the committee amendment. The second part is Section 3 of the bill, which was Senator McKenzie's material. That part, as I understand it, will be amended out and withdrawn, so you need not pay attention to Section 3. And then Section 4 and 5 of the committee amendments are, essentially, the material from Senator Schellpeper's bill and we'll ask Senator Schellpeper to address that in just a minute. But for the moment, I would like to yield some time to Senator Preister to describe for you Section 1 and 2 of the committee amendments, which is the revised energy policy statement.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable President, and thank you, Senator Beutler. Friends all, part of the bill that LB 120 is, and has some amendments on, has been negotiated now for a couple of years, has been an interim study, was a bill last year, and is not what I had originally envisioned, but when we get through the negotiating process, that is oftentimes what happens. There, I believe, will be an amendment coming forward that will take out a section that utilities have been concerned with on biopower. I am agreeable to that amendment. I am agreeable to continue the discussions between General and Select. I believe we have the bill in the form where the section, the original section that has been amended, the first part of it, is agreed to by and as of just a few minutes ago the utilities have agreed to that. There is some concern about the last part of the bill which is the economic development aspect, and I think some utilities still have some questions about that, and they would like to deal with that between General and Select File. At this point, and I say at this point, there is agreement between the interested parties that we can move the bill today and we will continue to look at it between now and Select File. I would hope that we would not have so many questions that we gently massage this off of the consent calendar and would be glad to answer any questions outside of the microphone, or on the mike, if anyone does have them. But after working on this for a couple of years, it is not a new concept and I would certainly hope that we could move it from