

more current events but certainly a reminder of events that are not so far in our past, but that we have not all read about them and do not all know about them. And I'm not so sure that some of the situations are not current. For example, our coal plant in Sutherland is supplied coal from Wyoming. For a period of time, until just...the coal plants generally and the nuclear plants, or the coal plants in both OPPD's district and in NPPD's district are supplied with coal from Wyoming. Until recently some of those plants had access to the coal only by one company's railroad. And they ended up building additional railroad facilities in order to have access to two railroad companies' lines. And as a result of doing that, my gosh, railroad rates came down considerably for the utility just lately. And that's competition, that's free market, that's good. But what if those two railroad companies were just one railroad company? Do you expect that our rates for coal, that we all pay for through our utility rates, might not go back up considerably, very quickly? I think that they probably would. Now I suppose the argument can be made, well, that can be dealt with through a regulatory structure that's just statutory in nature, and the Legislature will do just fine. Maybe that will be our historic experience. Maybe circumstances have changed to make the outcome different. On the other hand maybe it hasn't. You know this whole economic development thing is getting real strong, isn't it? The states whipsaw the states. We give away one thing, and then we give away another. And we've given away quite a bit. And are we going to be in a position where it will be effective, where we can effectively tell big corporations, when they tell us we're going to go someplace else, where we can tell them we want fair rates to the utility companies for coal? Are we going to be able to do that in this Legislature? Are we going to be able to study the issue appropriately? I mean it seems to me that we have a Public Service Commission for a couple of reasons. One is the independence of the Public Service Commission and the focus that the voters can give to their particular functions should a situation ever arise that the voters are concerned about. And the ability for the voters to focus there and to get thorough studies there, and to get a resolution of the matter there. And I guess I'd like to hear more about how it is that the times have changed and how it is that this Legislature is more independent than those of the past. Maybe we are. I would like to hear more about that discussion. Thank you.