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SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Senator Hartnett. And, Senator Bruning, if I could engage you for a couple of questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Do you yield, Senator Bruning?

SENATOR BRUNING: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR PREISTER: My questions revolve around Section 8 of the bill where, in effect, we're talking about the availability of all the books and records open to and be made available for public inspection and investigation and comments. Isn't, because the public utility, the Metropolitan Utilities District, already, as a public utility, required to have all of their books and information open to the public, is this, I guess, one necessary, and what may be the distinction between current policy and what we're attempting to do here?

SENATOR BRUNING: Senator, often that's the case, that these figures, and we're talking typically about numbers here, about costs and where they're allocated, often that is provided, not always. This clarifies the law with respect to MUD. It doesn't have anything to do with any of the other utilities, but with regard to MUD this clarifies that they must make this information available. And, as a public policy issue, I guess my rationale for supporting this particular section is that any governmental entity, it's my belief that they ought to have open books, including the Legislature, including MUD, which is a creature of statute. So it may be somewhat redundant, but we have lots of laws that can be called somewhat redundant. This is not in any way, in my mind, a negative redundant policy. It's a positive redundant policy, so...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR BRUNING: ...and it's not wholly redundant, it's partially redundant.

SENATOR PREISTER: So your intent there is that this information is available for the Public Service Commission to use it in helping to settle some of the disputed territory or resolve some of the issues?