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FLOOR DEBATE

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generators. Are you aware of any two power generators that want to combine in a single project at this time?

SENATOR SCHROCK: This...I guess Hastings and Grand Island are looking at that issue, because I think Hastings wants to expand and have some of that power production to be sold off to Grand Island.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And Hastings is currently in the power-generating business?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Yes. Hastings, Grand Island, and Fremont, I believe, all have coal-fired plants at the present time, but they're small plants compared to this one.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. So the idea is that there are existing power generators that want to enter agreements to more efficiently, and I guess that means economically for the consumers, produce and sell power.

SENATOR SCHROCK: That is correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And all these people agree with this bill?

SENATOR SCHROCK: We had no opposition to the bill, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And it seems to me that these cities and the people who appeared ought to be looking out for the interests of the consumer. I must ask a question. I don't see, on the listing of those who spoke for this bill, anybody that could be said to be a representative of the public. There's no advocacy...wait a minute. What does the acronym M-E-A-N mean? I know it spells mean, but what does it mean?

SENATOR SCHROCK: Municipal Energy Association of Nebraska.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So that's not a consumer group.

SENATOR SCHROCK: No. They also produce and distribute power.