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LB 748

It says we need to allow these public utilities to grow. We've made a decision in this state to allow these public utilities to exist, so we're going to continue to allow them some nominal and sometimes some immense growth.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FRIEND: Because in a lot of ways...I should say in some ways, the public utilities in this state have proven that they can do it better. We own them, we monitor them, and they've proven in some instances that they can do this job better. Two hundred and fifty thousand ratepayers in Omaha are telling us...I know we don't make policy based on what Omaha does, we don't want to be provincial...two hundred and fifty thousand ratepayers in Omaha, if they know about the issue, I don't think probably a third of them do, they're saying do not put the clamps on this public utility. Now, Senator Landis believes he has an answer for that. Senator Bourne is really coming out with an in-your-face answer. I think we could be out here for a long time. I don't think that's going to be necessary. I think you're all...I think you all think...may believe...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Friend.

SENATOR FRIEND: Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Those wishing to speak are Senators Landis, Baker, Erdman, Mines, Janssen, Connealy, Stuthman, Bourne, and Beutler. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Cudaback, I think we would all probably do well if we simply adopted the Bourne amendments. There are three of them in a row. I'd be happy to do that. It will put the bill in exactly the form that Senator Bourne wants to make his case to the body. We don't have to do it piecemeal. We can do it as expeditiously as possible so that we can then take a look at whether or not we like the idea in LB 748. Senator Friend just described it as, look, if you were trying to get to a free market, this would be as close an idea as to a free market as you could get because you would be trying to take the clamps off public utilities. That's an interesting