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LB 1249

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Cornett waives her time. Senator Brown, followed by Senator Bourne.

SENATOR BROWN: Mr. President, I wondered if Senator Landis might yield to a couple questions, and I don't know if I see Senator Landis.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Is Senator Landis on the floor? I do not see Senator Landis, Senator Brown. He is coming in. Senator Landis, would you yield? From Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Senator Landis, there have been a number of comments. Senator, at one point Senator Friend said that the underlying bill, LB 1249, wouldn't do much, and then later he said that we needed his amendment in order to not have it do too much. But anyway, can you tell us a little bit about what has gone into the process of negotiating how we're in the middle, because some people would, it seems, think that this is much more far-reaching than what you have construed it to be.

SENATOR LANDIS: Yeah. We got to the end of the state regulation bill, LB 790, and at the last minute, KM acquiesced to no service units, no service territories, a position that MUD had wanted all along. So at that point, KM and MUD both didn't want exclusive territories but would proceed with LB 790. That was how LB 790 got passed. That was what Senator Foley was saying. You know, service territories should have been in LB 790, but they weren't and that's why they weren't. I was out of this thing completely until the next year, in which the natural gas investor-owns brought in a bill described by Senator Redfield, in which they regulated everybody. All of the agreements that had previously been reached the year before, they had said, oh, no, no. Let's regulate everybody, and MUD had brought in a bill in which they had unconstitutional provisions for violating federal law, for creating right of first refusal, an amendment we'll see in awhile, and as many poke-you-in-the-eye possibilities as there could be. Faced with those bookend attempts at seeking huge advantage for only one side of the spectrum, I said to myself, what are the neutral principles that could apply reasonably across the board? And