

April 29, 1993      LB 421

open geographic areas and Nebraska does.      Certainly Arizona, Idaho, Montana...

PRESIDENT MOUL:    One minute.

SENATOR PIRSCH:    ...and even Washington. We have talked about the centers in Omaha and Lincoln but there is a lot out there that is not recorded that is not in Omaha or Lincoln. I have thought long and hard about LB 421 and the amendments that Senator Withem has wanted to add and I have come to the conclusion that it would be very difficult to have a two-tier system and, from looking at other states and their experiences, that the mandatory one system is certainly a lot cleaner, certainly a lot easier and also I think probably would be more cost effective for all...

PRESIDENT MOUL:    Time.

SENATOR PIRSCH:    ...of the utility companies. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL:    Thank you, Senator Pirsch.      Senator Schellpeper.

SENATOR SCHELLPEPER:    Thank you, Madam President and members. I, personally, don't have any problem with LB 421 in its present form. It's the Withem amendment that gives me some problems. I think anytime that you try to have a bill that is presented on a voluntary basis and then it is changed with an amendment that would be mandatory, it's a whole new ball game. I think if Senator Withem would accept a phase-in period, I think eventually we're going to have to be mandatory but, at this time, I think if it would be phased in over a period of time, several years' time, I think it would be acceptable to the public power and the power, electric industry in this state, but, at this time, I just can't support the Withem amendment because mandatory means now it shall be done mandatory, you shall do it. And I would like to work with Senator Withem and see if we can't come up with a date in the future where it would be phased in, and I think every state eventually is probably going to have to have a mandatory. But I don't know whether Nebraska is ready at this time to go mandatory with everything. The bill, like I said, itself is a good bill and as long as it's voluntary for now and then phase it in over so many years, if we can work that out then I could support the bill. But if the Withem amendment is attached, then it will be hard for me to