

agreement. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Preister. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I have a question for Senator Beutler if he would yield, please.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Beutler, would you respond, please.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Senator Beutler, as chairman of the committee, Natural Resources Committee, that this was heard in front of, I noted that the state auditor was not there to oppose this proposal. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: As I recall they were not at the public hearing although subsequent to the public hearing we called the State Auditor's Office in and grilled them on several subjects including the standards that they apply and their attitude towards things.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Ummm, hummm. But this bill, the state auditor audits now public power records. Is that correct?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Well there is some question as to whether they had the power to audit them, but, yes.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Although it says in statute...

SENATOR BEUTLER: Yes, yes.

SENATOR PIRSCH: ...that the state auditor shall...

SENATOR BEUTLER: The state auditor has not been auditing them and doesn't want to audit them.

SENATOR PIRSCH: And does not want to audit them.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Right.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Well that's interesting.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Isn't it?

SENATOR PIRSCH: Yes, it's amazing. Well I guess my...