

and Review amendments were adopted at that time. The first amendment I have to the bill is by Senator Preister. Senator, AM2156. (See page 2177 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Honorable Speaker, friends all. I just need to pull the amendment out. I apologize. Mr. Speaker, could you tell me, did I have that printed in the Journal? I apologize.

CLERK: No, sir. It's the one you brought up to us just a short time ago.

SENATOR PREISTER: I'm sorry, I'm sorry.

CLERK: I think we...I think copies were made and distributed, but I'm not sure of that, Senator.

SENATOR PREISTER: Yes, I have it now. I'm sorry. It was to be printed in the Journal, but it hasn't been yet. And we are back on it now. My apologies. Thank you. Yes, I have it. This is a concern on this bill that I have had for a while, and I apologize for this. It's been confusing all the way along, and to the committee members who worked with me on this amendment and on this bill in particular. It has been distributed earlier in the day, and there should be copies in some of the stacks of paper that everyone has. Nebraska's had a long history of public power. And the power...public power has provided us with reasonable rates and excellent service. We appreciate the fact that our electrical power system is locally owned and controlled. However, I do not believe it is the intent of the Legislature to remove the public from public power. In fact there is a need to make sure there is accountability to the public, a need to keep the public informed so that they can make an intelligent, informed judgment as to the financial condition and efficiency of their public utilities. We should remember that our utilities are governmental subdivisions of the state, and that the ratepayers have the right to accountability from them. This amendment, I feel, gives the ratepayer some of the tools that they will need in pursuing the information they are entitled to. The amendment establishes a minimum requirement of information that needs to be contained in the budget. These minimum requirements would allow the public the information they need to make an informed judgment as to the financial condition