

SENATOR HALL: Don, what's the difference between the two amendments? What...I can't seem to find the one that we have in front of us, but I do have 2124. What was the change?

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you for asking me the question, Senator Hall. There is a one word change between the one that was passed out and is on your desk, which is 2124 and 2156, which we're now dealing with. With this bill being on and off again, this afternoon, I need to be more on my toes and alert. The one word change, between what you have on your desk and what we have now before, is changing from the word on, which is in line 19, to the word in. And I had thought that this would be printed in the Journal tonight and you would have the new amendment when it comes before us again. However, it is back up before us now. It would read, the budget shall be in a form approved by the Nebraska Power Review Board, rather than as it is in AM2124, the budget shall be on a form approved.

SENATOR HALL: Okay, thank you, Senator Preister. Can...I have another question then on the top half, Section 1, where you refer to page 2 of the bill, line 13. The provisions that you talk about with regard to how the audit is going to be conducted, it's going to be done by a certified public accountant, or firm of accountants selected by the auditor of public accounts. How is it currently handled? What's currently the process right now that raises this issue?

SENATOR PREISTER: Currently, they are being audited by an accounting firm that they select through a board process, as I understand it.

SENATOR HALL: And is it...is it just the fact that they're not timely in completing this audit process, that generates the amendment?

SENATOR PREISTER: Senator, the concern is that they have been operating under the budget act. As a result of 310, they will no longer be under the budget act, therefore the State Auditor will not have any authority to do anything with the selection of their accounting firm, or with approving who they select.

SENATOR HALL: But they wouldn't, even under 310 as this is written, isn't it clearly just triggered by the fact that the audit hasn't been done within the time prescribed? That is when the...the auditor's function of appointing a CPA or a firm to