

built transmission lines and expended a great deal of money serving that load. The people of Clewiston, from what we gather, have somewhat gotten out from under the control of the Sugar Corp., and they decided they wanted a better rate situation. When the Federal Power Commission was appealed to by the people of Clewiston they came in, intervened in the case, and I do not think that they gave the cooperative quite a fair break. The co-op right now is practically wheeling this power at very, very small margin. I do not believe they will be able to pay out the investment that they have made, in a great many years. At least, that is the story as we get it, sir.

Mr. MACDONALD. But you have no personal knowledge of it?

Mr. WELCH. No, sir; no.

Mr. MACDONALD. Thank you. Mr. Broyhill?

Mr. BROYHILL. Mr. Chairman, that was the question I was going to ask, whether or not he had any further documentation on that point.

Mr. WELCH. All we have is what came up—I am on the executive board of the Florida Statewide Association. And this was the word that was brought up to us by our member cooperative.

Mr. BROYHILL. I want to thank you for a very clear, short and to-the-point statement.

Mr. WELCH. Thank you, Mr. Broyhill. We appreciate the opportunity to appear.

Mr. Chairman, your kindness is appreciated, sir.

Mr. MACDONALD. Thank you very much.

The next witness is Mr. Augustus Fortner of Miami, Fla.

STATEMENT OF AUGUSTUS "TOMMY" FORTNER, BUSINESS MANAGER, SYSTEM COUNCIL U-4, INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS

Mr. FORTNER. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to appear here in support of H.R. 5348 and other related bills introduced by the various Congressmen from our State.

My name is Augustus "Tommy" Fortner, business manager of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, System Council U-4, representing 2,991 employees of the Florida Power & Light Co. My interest in House bill 5348 has come about as a result of the Federal Power Commission's recent attempt to put the Florida Light & Power Co. under their jurisdiction. I do not feel that it is necessary to impose this jurisdiction on a company that operates solely within the boundaries of one State. This company has been under the effective regulation of the Florida Public Service Commission of the State of Florida for 16 years. It is certainly evident that the State commission has done an excellent job of regulation when we consider that the price paid per kilowatt-hour by our residential customers has been reduced about one-third since 1956.

According to Mr. William L. Webb of the FPC's Office of Public Information, the Commission has 1,120 employees who are paid a salary of \$12,050,000. Now, it seems obvious to me that the Federal Power Commission is going to have to increase its payroll and incur other additional expenses to bring this company under regulation. If they do not have to increase their work force, they have too many employees on the payroll now. With an average salary of better than \$10,000 per