

March 27, 1979

LB 460

other utility company to supply the service to a small user than it does to a large user. At least it costs them just as much and of course when you get out in the rural areas where we have the REA lines it costs them a great deal sometimes to build to a rather small consumer that doesn't use very much. I think the minimum in the REA when they started was \$3.50 a month which isn't very much electricity especially it wouldn't be today. It was quite a bit then. It was fifty kilowatts I believe. So I just wonder if we are not messing in something we have no business getting into. If they have the right to set the rates then let's let them set them. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Now we are speaking to the Simon amendment to LB 460. Do you wish to speak to the amendment, Senator Lamb? We are not speaking to the bill as a whole. We are speaking to the amendment. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: Could you repeat the amendment please, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: (Reread Simon amendment.)

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you. Well, Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I would direct your attention to lines 11 and 12 where it directs the power companies to charge rates which shall be fair, reasonable and nondiscriminatory and as I understand the amendment and bill, this is allowing the power districts to, in fact, charge rates which are discriminatory. We are not being consistent because in the previous language it says they shall not charge discriminatory rates but this new language will allow them to do so. So I would oppose the amendment and the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Keyes, do you wish to be recognized on the Simon amendment?

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, and I know when you sit down and try to figure out how we are going to pay this bill, that, Senator Kahle, you were exactly right. When we take a dollar off from some place, somebody else has to pay it but it is my feelings that if we are going to give some relief, if we are going to help certain people in this world pay their bill, we have to give it to those that have absolutely no way of increasing their income. To me it would be far better if we have to raise \$2,000 in Sarpy County on the gas rates. To take it off of the