

March 1, 1988

LB 457, 890, 939

PRESIDENT: Very good. Go to LB 162.

CLERK: Mr. President, if I might, right before that, I have amendments to be printed from Senator Nelson to LB 890; Senator Haberman to LB 457. (See pages 1102-03 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: I just have a motion from three senators wishing to remove LB 162 from the consent calendar, so I guess that does that. LB 939, Senator Withem, are you capable of handling that now?

CLERK: Mr. President, 939 by Senator Withem. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 6 of this year, referred to the Education Committee, advanced to General File. I have committee amendments pending by the Education Committee.

PRESIDENT: Are you going to handle the amendments, Senator Withem?

SENATOR WITHEM: You bet.

PRESIDENT: Okay.

SENATOR WITHEM: Mr. President, members of the body, LB 939, I'll try to explain both the bill and the committee amendments at the same time. The Education Telecommunications Commission was established 25 years ago. We've had 25 years of history of educational television in this state, and I think you got an invitation in your box here recently dealing with, dealing with a celebration coming up of that particular event. We had a hearing last year, a confirmation hearing, on the commissioners for the Telecommunications Commission. A number of questions came up. One of the most significant ones, I guess, was, why were all of the new members appointed at one time? Isn't it a good idea to stagger the terms of the commissioners? So this bill, 939, the main intent of it is to stagger the terms of the commissioners so we don't have, at the end of four years, all of them coming off at the same time. The bill, as it originally came in, attempted to delineate more strongly what the makeup of the commission would be. In addition to the commissioner of education, the university, and the state colleges, the bill originally said a representative from the telecommunication industry and another representative from nonprofit organization,