

January 16, 1992 LB 301

File, between now and the hearing on the proposal that's been introduced by Senator Will to address this from the gas company's perspective that I would be happy to work with you on those questions. It is not a...switching gears for me. It is not an attempt for me to cozy up to the Chamber of Commerce. I haven't changed my stripes at all, but it clearly is a question of, do we look at this from a perspective of really what amounts to a monopoly. And it is very difficult to understand, let alone explain, especially for me. And I think that with more discussion with the public hearing that will be had on Senator Will's bill, we'll be able to come to, hopefully, some kind of agreement on what should or should not be done. I would again just like to emphasize that the committee amendments do nothing more than require that the privately owned utility shall file an annual statement certifying that no part of such privately owned public utilities rate base is utilized to subsidize or cross-subsidize the sale or services division of the corporation. That's all. Whether it's an affiliate or a member...or a direct affiliate. And, I mean that's all this amendment does. It is...basically says you have to file this statement on an annual basis, that as Senator Withem aptly put it, that if gas companies came in and swore up and down that they already did. If that's the case, there shouldn't be any problem with adopting this amendment, which would then become the bill. And I would urge that to happen so that the discussion can continue.

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Hall, was that your closing?

SENATOR HALL: It was.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you. We will now. we will now vote on the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Committee amendments are adopted. We are now on the bill as amended. Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Mr. President, I...the discussion was on the committee amendments. I would just move advancement to E & R Initial.