

March 27, 1979

LB 460

SENATOR NICHOL PRESIDING

SENATOR NICHOL: One minute, sir.

SENATOR SCHMIT: He is going to get stuck and he has no alternative and he faces the same problems that everyone else faces. I wish there were some other way to address the issue and I think that looking at it today as long as the bill is permissive, Senator Simon, as it is, as long as it is permissive and not mandatory, then I would have to be against the kill motion but I would point out that my sympathies lie with Senator Kahle because if you made it mandatory you fall back upon what Senator Murphy spoke about. You just shift it from one to the other but I think that by passing the bill...

SENATOR NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...we are recognizing that there comes a point in time when the people have said this is enough and if the time comes when the people tell the board of directors of utilities, the heck with it, we're about there. So I would oppose the kill motion and allow the bill to remain alive at least at this time.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Simon.

SENATOR SIMON: Welcome back, Senator Schmit. Permissive, permissive, permissive, that is what the bill is, Senator Kahle. We are not... Why do we need the bill? I will repeat it for the third time, Senator Kahle, you know if it didn't seem to make an indentation the first two times. We had public hearings. Utility companies said, even if we want to implement lifeline rates, we cannot do so. Therefore, the 161 committee drafted legislation to allow them to do that if they want. I am continually amazed at the number of inconsistencies, the consistent inconsistencies, that take place on this floor and, Senator Kahle, you certainly have been as strong a supporter if not more so than anybody else, in terms of local control, certainly by your background as a county commissioner and yet here we attempt to provide the tools of management to those people at the local level, those elected officials who know what is best for their community and as Senator Schmit said, if it is not going to work out there, if they are going to cut their own throats, they are not going to do it. Well what are we really talking about? First of all, the dollar amounts are not going to be great. Even if

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