

April 3, 1979

LB 143

if those standards adopted by me would cause me to develop the same callous, hard-hearted attitude which is concerned more about the utility company and a slight inconvenience to them than I am for the safety and welfare of those who cannot help themselves, I don't want those principles. Lincoln said, "God must have loved the poor people because he made so many of them." There are more poor people than there are legislators so what does that tell us? That the legislators job is to kill off the poor. That is really something but I am enjoying my time in the Legislature this year because I am seriously thinking of doing some commercial writing....

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...and I am finding adequate grist for my mill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President, I ask for the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Do I see five seconds? Okay, the previous question, should debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. The question is, shall debate cease on the Johnson amendment to LB 143? Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried and debate ceases and I will recognize Senator Johnson as soon as I introduce 42 ninth grade students from Aurora in the South balcony, Senator Kremer's District and their sponsor, Bruce Ramsour. Will you hold up your hands? We welcome you to a calm session of this legislative body. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Yes, Mr. President, members of this body, I have heard on many occasions now that the utility industry in this state represents one of the strongest forces outside this legislative body, that in fact getting legislation passed that has some effect on the utility industry is extraordinarily difficult. I am convinced in my own heart that utility issues will not die and will not fade away. In fact, they will become larger and larger on our scene. It is inevitable as gas prices going up at our filling stations are inevitable. Utility costs will become a greater and greater portion of everyone's expenses. We have got to recognize and we will be recognizing that