

April 3, 1979

LB 143

there are many persons in our society who are living on a limited fixed income, persons who have never been deadbeats, who are not deadbeats, who are integral parts of our society but who in the winter months don't have the ability to meet those high utility payments that are coming their way. Utility prices are essentially out of their own control. So what Senator Simon has done with LB 143 is he has provided some modicum of due process rights to all utility consumers which I guarantee you can affect everyone of us in this room. What I have done with these amendments is to ensure that those due process rights go one step further and protect tenants who likewise live on low incomes, who likewise, in many instances, live on fixed incomes, who likewise will be facing with this problem. Now I would encourage you to support this amendment today. It is a right step in the right direction. However, in the event the amendment is defeated, make no mistake about it, this amendment and these concepts will be back again and again and again, if not by me, by other members of this body because we are going to have to face the fact that many people who are not deadbeats, who are good souls, who are earnest folk genuinely have a problem in meeting their utility payments and we need to make certain that some protections are built into the law to see to it that they really are protected and are not driven from their homes in the winter time by a high gas bill or by a high electric bill which keeps their furnace from operating. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is the adoption of the Johnson amendment to LB 143. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Once more before we record, have you all voted? Clerk, record the vote.

CLERK: 12 ayes, 24 nays on the adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion lost. The amendment is not adopted. Is there one more amendment to the bill?

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Nichol moves to amend and those amendments are on page 1205 of the Legislative Journal.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, my amendment is very simple. It simply takes out villages, cities of the first class and