

April 9, 1979

LB 457

National Rural Electric regulations require that the rurals notify National Rural Electric ninety days before a rate change. So that this certainly falls within that time limit, and as far as a municipality, it would only be about five weeks on the short side, and if they wanted to send out the notice out sooner, it could be six weeks or eight weeks.

SENATOR CLARK: Thank you, Senator Fowler. Really what concerns me is the fact we are faced with a rate increase now in my hometown and it is going to happen every thirty days, they are going to make an adjustment. The reason they are doing it, of course, is because of the natural gas policy act of 1978. They are decontrolling the gas. They are decontrolling the oil. As long as they decontrol, it is going to go up. My concern is that if they have to decontrol, they have to add to the cost of this fuel in my local plant, who in the world is going to pay for that? Every thirty days, every six weeks, whatever that time is going to be, you are going to have another one. The city council eventually has to make that decision as to whether you are going to raise it or not. I think Senator Murphy is perhaps right when he says no one is going to that city council and say please raise the rates because your cost has raised. I don't think that will happen either. I notice in here that the Sierra Club and there is someone else in there, Common Cause, testified in favor of the bill. Well, I am sure they are right in wanting to hold the costs down. Everyone wants to hold the cost down. I would love to hold the cost of electricity down in my house. When I get a bill for \$93, I would love to hold it down, but at the same time I know that if they are going to have to pay more for that fuel, they are going to have to charge more for electricity. There just isn't any other way they can do it. They could buy electricity from some place else, but when they do, then they are going to have to go through the same routine from NPPD, OPD, whoever it is, they are going to have to go through this same routine. I just don't think it is feasible to put a bill like this through and try to harness the city council with their duties. I know that we don't like it. I don't like it. I don't like the price of gasoline or diesel fuel or anything else going up and I don't think there is any shortage of diesel fuel or gasoline. No way do I feel that and I think you are going to find that when you get it to eighty, eighty-five cents there won't be any shortage. The only thing is that as long as they are going to have to pay more for this they are going to have to collect more for it. Certainly I am against the bill for