

April 25, 1979

LB 495

SENATOR SIMON: Mr. President, members of the body. I rise to oppose the Haberman amendments. Senator Newell touched a bit upon the point but I want to relate very specifically an incident which happened in my office regarding the cable TV. I think that Senator Fowler will at least get a kick out of it, even if Senator Haberman's amendment would go through. The gentlemen representing the cable industry came into my office and handed me an amendment and said, we would like to have you vote against the Fowler amendment. I said, well first of all I happen to be very much in favor of the Fowler amendment, and I said can you tell me what the Fowler amendment does? No, I can't tell you what the Fowler amendment does, but we certainly don't want you to support it. I said well why are you opposed to the Fowler amendment? He couldn't give me a reason as to why he was opposed to the Fowler amendment. Here was a man going around lobbying on a bill, hadn't read the amendment, didn't know what it did and didn't even know why he didn't like the bill. Except he knew that he didn't like it. I would suggest that is probably much of the same logic that has taken place on whatever lobbying efforts have gone out in the rotunda or behind the scenes on this particular amendment today. The point is there is no legitimate reason. There is no justification for having an amendment like this. Senator Haberman, I apologize for not being here when you offered the amendment and explained it but can you give me some sort of rationale or justification why this amendment is offered? In about 45 seconds of my time.

PRESIDENT: Just a minute, just a minute, are you asking a question?

SENATOR SIMON: I'm asking a question of Senator Haberman.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Haberman go ahead.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I will give you just one reason amongst many. It asks for two public hearings on the rate structure of cable TV. The law says one public hearing on the entire city budget. So, it seems kind of frivolous to me that you have to have two public hearings on cable TV rates and one on the city.

SENATOR SIMON: Thank you Senator Haberman. Now they do have, as I recall when I used to attend city council meetings, they do have three readings, I believe that it is three, two or three on a particular item before they actually vote on it, at least they do in Omaha. Senator Newell, when they pass an ordinance they discuss it three times, they read it