

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler, do you wish to close on your amendment? Senator Chambers, go ahead.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, I am sorry. I neglected to turn my light on and my comments will be very brief because I have an amendment up there, too. I had suggested that there be an interim study, and in view of some of the issues that have been raised by Senators DeCamp and Vickers, I think you can see that there are problems here. They have constituencies in the area where irrigation or those types of activities might occur. So you can't say that they are opposed to law enforcement. You can't say that they are trying to beat these companies. But the question that arises to me as a city person, and maybe Senator Kahle can answer this for me, do the rural electric control natural gas services, too? Senator Kahle's answer was "no". So if the rural electric...not in his area and Senator Sleck is shaking his head no, too. How did natural gas get in here and that is why I asked the original question? If it is the problem that they have talked about in the rural area, then you can zero in on that, but when you talk about natural gas and then you talk about cable television also, then you have got a hodgepodge in a very few words which has very far-ranging consequences. So what I would like to see us do is adopt Senator Beutler's amendment. You won't hurt the bill. You are not saying that what you are trying to do can't be done because you have made taking these services theft so I don't understand what that other language is needed for anyway. And to level with you completely, I never did really support the amendment but it gave me an occasion to say some things about an Omaha situation but I genuinely support Senator Beutler's amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Beutler, do you wish to close?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would just like to emphasize again that there really has been only one specific problem addressed here this morning and that seems to be the problem of meter tampering and I want to point out to you that in my opinion meter tampering is clearly already covered under the law. The section of the law that we are dealing with now is 28-515 but there is another section of the law 28-512, and let me just read you the basic, the basic sentence of the law and then go through some of the provisions. It says, "A person commits theft if he obtains property of another by deception." Now I guess I just don't see any two ways of looking at it. If you are tampering with your meter you are obtaining something for nothing and it is theft by deception. Now the statute goes