

March 15, 1982

LB 573

SENATOR CLARK: I think right now about 45, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Did I say 35...45? Okay, and this bill would effectively deregulate about 40 of those 45, is that correct?

SENATOR CLARK: I think about 38, Senator Beutler, you are right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: 38?

SENATOR CLARK: Right in that area.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, now with regard to the procedures that are set up, as I understand at this point in time and I am a little unclear on one of them, that is why I am asking you, if the people object to the rates, then five percent of them can petition and the Commission then will decide what the rate will be, if that petition is properly submitted, is that correct?

SENATOR CLARK: Yes. They would still have to go to a hearing at that time.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. The petition affects only the rates that are in question at that particular point in time. The petition does not put them back under the control, does not put the company back under the control of the Commission permanently, is that correct?

SENATOR CLARK: It would everytime they asked for a rate increase, yes, I mean if five percent of the people objected to it.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Well, let's take an example, if one time five percent of the people objected to a rate increase and then let's say the Commission went ahead and set the rate that year, then the next year the telephone company came in with another rate increase, does the Commission still have control or do we need a new petition for five percent?

SENATOR CLARK: You need a new petition, yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Need a new petition.

SENATOR CLARK: Only on every hearing (interruption).

SENATOR BEUTLER: So one petition applies to one application for a rate increase?