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LB 573

SENATOR CLARK: That is right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Right. Is there any mechanism on the bill whereby the subscribers of a company could bring the company back under Commission regulation on a permanent basis if they so choose?

SENATOR CLARK: No, there isn't anything under there now that will do that, no.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you, Senator Clark.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler asked some of the questions I wanted to ask. I would like to ask how many subscribers are impacted by this, Senator Clark?

SENATOR CLARK: How many what?

SENATOR SCHMIT: How many telephone subscribers would be affected by this proposal of yours?

SENATOR CLARK: Oh, about eight percent of the subscribers in Nebraska.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Meaning numerically, how many telephones?

SENATOR CLARK: I couldn't tell you that. I don't know how many subscribers there are. You see, this does not affect the bigger companies, LT&T, General United of the West, Northwestern Bell, they are not affected by this. They are in the next bill but not this one.

SENATOR SCHMIT: But it does impact upon many subscribers in those outlying areas who have objected to us in the past because of some of the poor service they have received, does it not?

SENATOR CLARK: Actually these small companies have not asked for an increase, Senator Schmit. It has never been feasible for them to go before and ask and they haven't had to because they got their operating cost from the separation formula.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Can you explain again why this cost is so prohibitive? What is the cost for a rate hearing, increase hearing for one hearing?