

March 15, 1982

LB 573

SENATOR SCHMIT: After the rate increase has been imposed on them?

SENATOR CLARK: After the rate has been imposed, they have to notify the people sixty days ahead of time on a form that is prescribed in the bill and five percent of the people, if you have got a hundred subscribers, five people can do that, can make them go to a hearing before the Public Service Commission. It isn't feasible to do it.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Then you have changed the language and is there an amendment for the bill that I have not seen?

SENATOR CLARK: Yes, if you read the white copy, that is the bill that came out of the Public Works Committee. That is the bill now.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I would like to have you explain in a little more detail about the principle you were just explaining, Senator Clark, and at this time I am going to withhold my judgment on the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Was that a question for you? You have exactly two minutes left on this bill.

SENATOR CLARK: All I want to do is advance the bill...

PRESIDENT: Four minutes left at this time.

SENATOR CLARK: That is right. I kept track of the time, too. I would just like to have the bill advanced. If Senator Schmit wants any more detail, I will be glad to give him all the detail he wants.

PRESIDENT: Go ahead, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, I would like to know how long this has taken to develop the process. You know, telephone companies I understand are in jeopardy but so is every other business in the State of Nebraska and I think that we ought to know just how extensive this is going to be. As he has just said, we are looking at a three hundred percent increase perhaps in rates in some of these companies. I am not saying it is not justified and not needed but I think it is going to come as a tremendous shock to a lot of the people and I think that we ought to know the background behind it and why it has taken place. I am not trying to hold up your bill. I just want to know what I am voting on.

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