

March 15, 1982

LB 573

SENATOR CLARK: Let me tell you, in the first place, Senator Schmit, this, in Iowa it is 15,000 or less and they have got about 85 telephone companies in Iowa because they are more populous than we are. What is happening out here in these small...take Keystone-Arthur, for instance, they have 200 subscribers out there. It would cost them \$25 a telephone to come in on a \$5,000 rate that it would cost them to go before the Public Service Commission. It would cost them \$25 a telephone just to go before the Public Service Commission to get a \$5 increase. You can see that is not feasible. It would take them five years to get their money back just for the cost of going to the Public Service Commission and they need the money. They are not going to get their money from the separation formula and they have to increase this. I am not for the telephone companies. I am from the people out there, the people need that service. The people need a telephone even if it is going to cost them. Now if it is going to cost \$20, it is \$6.50 now, you may have people out there saying I can't afford it. I am going to have to eat and I am not going to have a telephone. That is the chance we are going to take and I hate to see that. The rural people in Nebraska are going to suffer from it and I hate that.

PRESIDENT: A half a minute on Senator Schmit's time.

SENATOR SCHMIT: One question yet, Senator Clark, what about the complaints we receive on service. I have had numerous complaints from that part of the country because of absolutely rotten service. In fact they usually have to write me a letter because they can't get me by telephone.

SENATOR CLARK: All they have to do now is go to the Public Service Commission with that complaint. That has nothing to do with this.

PRESIDENT: Okay, time is up. Senator Newell. We have now just over a minute.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, I have a quick question and I hope you will hold it because I am not intending to hold this bill up (interruption).

PRESIDENT: All right, go ahead, Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Senator Clark, you have a five percent, if five percent of the subscribers petition, they can and can be reviewed. Is there any percentage requirement? If it exceeds twenty-five percent, it will be reviewed? Is there any such provision?

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