

SENATOR CLARK: We just start at ten, ten.

PRESIDENT: No, nine. You'd better start.

SENATOR CLARK: Well I can talk fast like Senator Wesely if I have to. This really does not change the law as far as the time limit is concerned. The law says now they will hear it within six months and make a determination in thirty days so it is six months and thirty days or seven months. If they have not made a determination in that length of time then they can put in 75% of the one they asked for, the rate they asked for. That is really all the bill does on a refundable basis. What it's really going to do is to make the Public Service Commission hear these cases as the law says they should hear them now. They have one coming up this week over there with General Telephone. It has been on file a year. Why they would wait a year is more than I know unless they are playing politics with it. That is the only reason they could do it because they can hear this. I grant you that those things are about so thick when they bring them in but it is not all new. I mean, they know what the Bell Telephone System is worth, LT & T is worth, General, they know basically what it is worth because that hasn't changed that much. They merely have to update it so it should not take that long and that is exactly what this bill will do. It says that in seven months if they have not made a determination the telephone company can put in 75% of what they had asked for and at that time then the PSC can make any determination they want on the hearing at any time they want. If they want to take the year then they can do it but this is on a refundable basis and the only thing that will be put in will be that which is refundable. They will not put in anything on toll charges, this type thing that is not refundable. And I just ask that the bill be moved to E & R please. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Beutler, did you wish to discuss the bill? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I still have some problems with this particular bill and I guess my concern derives from the question of whether the telephone companies are really going to have any incentive to negotiate in a good faith basis with the Public Service Commission on these rates if we make this kind of a change in the law. Basically what you are saying with this bill is that the telephone company can put into effect its new rates and then the telephone company and the commission can negotiate for an indefinite period in the future as to what the permanent rate will be. But I don't think we should kid ourselves. In the meantime the telephone companies are going to adjust the 75% that they can have and can get will be what