

SENATOR ELMER: Senator Hall, will the information about the individual costs that each telephone user is paying, will that be available from the phone company by walking in and asking for it, or will they routinely, from time to time, provide a little statement stuffer that says these are all the different kinds of costs that are included in this basic program so that they have a little bit of an idea of what their bill comprises?

SENATOR HALL: Senator Elmer, I'm sure that they are available now. I mean the phone company clearly is a...probably one of the best citizens we have in the state. I...This is not a punitive amendment on my part. All it does is say that, look, you shouldn't separate these two out. And I think today, if you were to walk into the local phone company, you would be able to get a breakdown of your bill by sitting down with a service rep who would say here's where those dollars are spent, here's how we can raise them. I don't think you'd have any problem at all receiving that information. Now, with regard to what their policy is on it, that I cannot answer, Senator Elmer.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator Hall. I think it's incumbent on a utility, like telephone company that is performing a public service, to provide these kinds of information to the consumers, if they so request. And I can see the reason for not having to delineate them all on each individual statement, because it could get very cumbersome, as we all know. But somewhere in between there the information should be available, in my opinion. Thank you, Senator Hall.

SPEAKER BARRETT: The Chair recognizes Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker. Again, Senator Hall, if you'd respond to a question. As I understand it, I went up and looked at your amendment, and basically it strikes the same language in both the Baack amendment and in what was your amendment previous to this?

SENATOR HALL: That's correct.

SENATOR WITHEM: Okay, point number one. Point number two, currently the bill indicates that there will be specific language contained...there will be a legal mandate that there will be language contained on each bill.