

February 13, 1992 LB 722

elective office, and that was not my intent nor do I believe it was anyone's intent. So the effect of part of the amendment today is to scratch office supplies, staff, and furnishings, or devices and simply suggest that installation and use of telephone and telefax machines be inserted in here. So that is the first part of the amendment. The second part of the amendment adds an entire new section that says, that goes into 81-1120.72. That statute, as exists, says that the communication system shall not be used for any purposes other than business of the state or its political subdivisions except under conditions of emergency. We took the language from the Montana statutes, that was one of the states that we contacted, and inserted that into this amendment. It seems to work well in Montana, and what it says, the facilities of the state's telecommunication systems are provided for the conduct of state business. In addition, the state's telecommunication systems may be used by state employees and officials for local and long distance calls to children at home, teachers, doctors, day care centers and baby-sitters, to family members to inform them of unexpected schedule changes, and for other essential personal business. The use of a state's telecommunication systems for essential personal business shall be kept to a minimum and shall not interfere with the conduct of state business. Essential personal long distance calls shall be either collect, charged to a third party nonstate number, or charged to a personal credit card. In other words, you can't make them and charge them to the state. And one of the reasons we did that, we talked about reimbursement, but since there is sales tax involved on all telephone calls, it was thought that maybe people would use the state telephone system to make their long distance calls so they could escape the state sales tax and save a little money. But I think the key words in this provision are "essential," and with that, I would just conclude by saying that the Accountability and Disclosure Commission did submit a fiscal note of \$1,500, which I did not submit in the form of an A bill, because what it involved was the printing of the little booklet they have for campaign committees every year, and it costs about \$1 a booklet, and usually they print more than enough during an election year, probably would have them reprinted again next year, and if this bill passes, I think just a simple sheet with the change could be inserted into the booklet until new booklets were printed. So I did not submit an A bill on this particular legislation. With that, I would be happy to try to answer any question.

SPEAKER BAACK: Discussion of the amendment offered by Senator