

could really do would be to lift their certificate to operate in the state. I knew that was not going to happen. But, as some people have pointed out, the fact that I am the lion that Sprint decided to beard created a serious problem for them as far as public relations and other things. I studied the law, and when the hearing came they were embarrassed. I want to read to you all a couple of editorials. This is a case where I'm going to toot my own horn by reading what the Lincoln Star wrote on April 7, 1995. The headline of that editorial is, "Sprint Answers Call". "Thanks to the pugnacious State Senator, Ernest Chambers, about 11,000 Nebraska telephone customers can get collect calls from people who use Sprint as their long distance carrier. Last year Chambers filed an official complaint with the Nebraska Public Service Commission after learning that Sprint had blocked collect calls to his office for no apparent reason. Sprint could not come up with a reason for the block. The Chambers' fussing uncovered a small can of Sprint worms--thousands of other customers with similar unaccountable blocks on their phones. Obviously, your involvement benefitted numerous people across the state, said a letter to Chambers from the commission. Sprint subsequently agreed to lift all of the blocks, more than 10,900 of them. Now a Nebraska ET can call home, even collect, no matter what long distance companies are involved." This is what the Lincoln Journal said, April 15th. The headline of this one is, "Chambers Sprints to the Rescue". Senator Ernie Chambers of Omaha was not alone when Sprint placed a block on his Capitol phone so he couldn't accept collect calls. After Chambers objected, the State Public Service Commission asked how many other blocks Sprint had placed on the phones of unwitting customers for no reason. The answer, nearly 11,000. Yet another example of how Chambers helps the little guy. Members of the Legislature, if there had not been a Public Service Commission I could have perhaps embarrassed Sprint to the point where they would never place a block on my line again, but how would I know? How would we have found out that almost 11,000 people in this state were unjustifiably blocked from receiving collect phone calls by Sprint? It was through the work of the Public Service Commission. And people can say all they want to that the commission could not do anything to Sprint, but working in conjunction, in this instance, with me, working in conjunction with others on other problems, like with US West and the terrible, atrocious service they have been giving, the Public Service Commission is an instrumentality through which the public has a chance to get some fairness when