

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 11, 1999 LB 514

universal service because that's an intrastate long distance toll call that that 5 percent is going to be tacked on to. Most people talk about...well, let's assume I don't make any long distance calls, what will the basic person pay in universal service? Well, that's 5 percent of \$18. That...that figure is relatively small but that, when everybody pays that, that's a pretty big fund, and they're probably looking at, you know, at moving that fund to the high cost areas.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Do we have...what's the estimated amount of that fund?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Nobody...

SENATOR BEUTLER: I'll leave...I'll leave that...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...nobody knows, to the best of my knowledge, they have some estimates, but I don't think anybody knows what 5 percent of this is going to be...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...that's the reason they're going to have to try to size the fund, I don't know.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senators. The Chair recognizes Senator Connealy.

SENATOR CONNEALY: I think that increasing, you know, the authority of the Public Service Commission is really what we're going to have to do. This addresses...and otherwise we will be back with another initiative. So I'm rising in support of this, and wanted to make sure that Senator Beutler had all his question asked. I think I will go ahead and yield my time back to you, Chris.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Connealy, thank you. Just one more question, Senator Kristensen.