

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

March 2, 1999

LB 514

people. There are going to be a lot of individuals in his district, as large as it is, who will not be able to afford a telephone at all without these subsidies. Other people are going to have to pay into this phone, myself included, each time we pay our phone bill so that people in Senator Jones's district and other districts can be assisted. And I'm calling him by name so that some of the rural senators who tend to, in a knee-jerk fashion, vote against any and everything, to know that in this instance they'll be voting against the best interests of their constituents. Now, if it is decided that there's not going to be support from all of the senators, then we should do away with all of the subsidies for everybody and then just let people wind up with no ability to afford a telephone and begin to ask their senators, why is this happening to me; why are these new charges being tacked on; I can't afford it. And then let those senators say, well, Chambers and some of these wild-eyed, big-spending liberals were talking about subsidies and I didn't realize it affected you so I...I was for killing it, you know, trying to reduce the size of government and all that knee-jerk nonsense. I hope that there will be attention paid to the discussion this morning. Questions that are asked will be answered by somebody on this floor. The members of the Transportation Committee ought to be thoroughly aware of everything that this program entails. That's their area of jurisdiction. If you ask anything about the law in the constitution that pertains to what we do in the Judiciary Committee, as me, even though I'm not the Chairperson, and I'll answer. I am being somewhat facetious in suggesting that every member of that committee would understand all aspects of this program, because some aspects of it are relatively new. But what my amendment would do, and I hope you don't panic when you hear some things Senator Bromm might say in opposition to my amendment, we can work this out. It's going to take, I believe, several steps. We might can do them all this morning, and maybe we cannot. But my amendment has been on file for some time. People who are interested and concerned about the welfare of the types of persons that my amendment would address are aware of that amendment. They are in support of the amendment. So I am not in favor of scrapping that and saying we're going to try to do something that's more complicated but more productive of assistance. I would like this step to be taken first. It, by itself, is not difficult to understand. If we add this to the