

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

March 2, 1999

LB 514

subsidy, and it appears that that is, in fact, spelled out. I had another question, but I can't think. I'll think about it, and I appreciate...appreciate your sending this letter, because it does clarify what I was concerned about. Thank you very much. Thank you, Madam President.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Vrtiska. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, I...it looks like the amendment might go, so I want to mention a couple of other items that are not touched by the amendment and I had alluded to them earlier. There has to be some promoting of this assistance so the people entitled to receive it will be aware of it. If you look in that packet of information that I gave you, you will see what might be called an application form which a person must fill out. So this assistance we're talking about is not something which somehow the phone companies automatically become aware of as being available to certain individuals. Those individuals are going to have to make themselves known. There is no way they're going to make themselves known if they're unaware that the program is available. I think something ought to be placed on the phone companies and the Public Service Commission in terms of helping to bring this assistance to people's attention. Everybody with a telephone is going to get a bill from the phone company, unless they handle other people's bill situation differently from the way they handle mine. So, in that mailing, they would reach every person, at least the household or the location, where a phone is installed. And they could make it clear in mailing out a bill that this kind of program is available and they could list, very simply, as you see from the first page in this letter that the Public Service Commission authored, the items or the programs which will lead to qualification or eligibility to receive this assistance. As somebody had mentioned to me, they have gotten things in their phone bill telling them to buy certain knives and electronic equipment and so forth. When I get my phone bill, all I pull out is the bill itself and the envelope in which to send the money, and all that other stuff I throw away. I don't even know what they're putting in there. I thought they might have been religious tracts, Senator Hilgert, so I don't (laugh)...I wasn't going to pay any attention. But if they are advertising products for sale as they send out these mailings, the phone