

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

April 6, 1999

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have a public utility and pay less through their rates. So we're looking at some things that are unequal competition here and I think Senator Chambers is raising some issues regarding what's going on here in the competition and who loses, and I would venture to say that in many instances it is the public that does in fact lose. We had a lot of testimony from the city of LaVista concerning safety issues where they had double piped. When builders come in to backhoe in to, laying lines, they expect to find one pipe. They find it, locate it, they feel everything is safe, not knowing that there is another dangerous line laying there that they need to look for. So that is a safety issue. But the other issue does involve the money and the equal payment that we see with people. One of the issues that was addressed in this bill is whether public utilities could utilize their water rates to underrate or undercut their cost for the natural gas, thereby being able to compete with a much lower rate on the natural gas side. At this point in time, MUD has not done that. This bill would make sure that they continue not to do that so that we do not unfairly jeopardize the competition or the taxation any more than we already have between the people that are serviced by both entities. I don't know if Senator Chambers understood that. I spent hours and hours reading it and perhaps you have questions you would like to address, and I would certainly give him my time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN PRESIDING

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Speaking hoarsely.) Senator Chambers, you have approximately two minutes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, froggy the gremlin. I couldn't...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...resist that. Senator Redfield, thank you for the time. Are you able to answer the questions? I'd like to ask Senator Redfield a question or two.

SENATOR REDFIELD: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Redfield, I was talking to Senator Hartnett at the time you were giving some of your explanation,