

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

April 6, 1999

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SENATOR BEUTLER: Well, I'm not sure I entirely understand that, Senator, but I'll leave it to a discussion off the floor. And, with that, I think that for the moment I have no further questions, and I would certainly be interested in what others on the floor think of the matter. Thank you.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Janssen.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. Senator Bruning, I have just a couple of questions for you, if you would respond to them.

SENATOR BRUNING: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR JANSSEN: Senator Bruning, I'm trying to grasp what's happening here. Am I right in assuming when natural gas is piped from the gulf area to say the city of Omaha, now do not all gas companies, whether it be MUD, CitiCorp (sic), whoever it be, do they not pay a transportation cost for that gas and buy that gas direct from say Enron? Is that right?

SENATOR BRUNING: Yes, that's correct, the...

SENATOR JANSSEN: All right, so...

SENATOR BRUNING: ...same charge.

SENATOR JANSSEN: ...so then say MUD lays a line into a subdivision, or in the city of Omaha, or Ralston, or Bellevue, or wherever it may be. Now does that give them exclusive rights to that subdivision then? Are they the only ones that can do that?

SENATOR BRUNING: It depends, Senator, on the specific franchise given by the city. Most cities will select one provider, and that...they do have exclusive rights within that city boundary. MUD's service territory is statutorily defined as the city of Omaha. They also have...they also serve some outlying areas.

SENATOR JANSSEN: So then that excludes anyone else from running a line, say buying the gas from say Enron and running another