

SENATOR VICKERS: How much time is left, Mr. President?

SPEAKER NICHOL: A minute and a half.

SENATOR VICKERS: Well very briefly, very briefly I think the issue needs to be put into perspective and the perspective is this, that those people who honestly do not tamper or attempt to tamper or to interfere in any way with the charges assessed to them are going to have to pick up the losses that the districts may occur from those people who purposely do it. It is a little bit like shoplifting. Shoplifting doesn't affect me because I don't shoplift. Oh, yes, it does because businesses pass the cost along. The other point is that. . .and I understand Senator Haberman's concern but the fact of the matter is that tampering with a meter for the express purpose of lowering the rate or the charge is a little bit technical and a little bit difficult to do. You have to take the meter out, do some things to it or turn it upside down or do some other things. Just simply damaging the meter would not do it. I don't think damaging the meter in any way, shape or form with a baseball bat or anything else is going to ever get anybody into any trouble because that is going to reduce their amount of electricity. I was amazed at the amount of expertise that there is in being able to do this. Quite frankly I'm not smart enough to do it but there are booklets you can buy to explain how to do it and I guess I find it a little difficult to understand how anybody would go in and do something of that nature to one of my meters that would cost me less money. I think they would probably be more apt to do it that would cost me more money if they didn't like me but remember this. The other side would have to prove that somebody had gone in there and that Senator Haberman, in fact, had done it and it would be a little difficult to prove that too if it was one of those meters way down in the tules it seems to me so with that, and as Senator Hoagland indicated and I think Senator Johnson would agree that we would be happy to work out any differences that people might have between now and Select File on this particular piece of legislation and with that I would move the advancement, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the advancement of LB 350. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Please vote. We are voting on the advancement of LB 350. Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 3 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.