

March 6, 1985

LB 269

read at your leisure. The committee itself has gone over the bill quite carefully. The affected industries have gone over the bill very carefully. The affected municipalities have gone over the bill very carefully and I can indicate at this juncture that the bill has no opposition, it only has support. I will explain the bill as we get into it. The committee amendment would do one thing. The Revenue Department became overzealous in defining who was a Public Service Commission and defined Cable Television as a...or who was a public service corporation, defined Cable Television as a public service corporation. The conclusion of the Revenue Committee was that before we treated Cable Television to the franchise tax route for public service corporations, before we did that, we at least ought to more carefully examine the nature of Cable Television. So we simply stripped out Cable Television as one of the defined franchisees that would be covered by LB 269. Cable Television has traditionally not been covered by the franchise tax and we just decided not to make that change. So at this juncture I would offer to the Legislature, the committee amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, did you wish to speak on this amendment? Okay. We're voting on the committee amendment. All those in favor of adopting the committee amendment vote aye, opposed nay. We are voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Senator Landis, would you return to your desk, please, and see about your light. Thank you. We are voting on the adoption of the committee amendments. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The committee amendments are adopted. We are back to the bill. Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, let me see if I can explain LB 269 without losing my place or your place. Nebraska imposes a franchise tax on so-called public service companies and public service companies are, in effect, regulated utilities, i.e., pipelines, telephone companies and so on. And the franchise tax is a tax which effectively values the company at whatever its going value is and the people who do company valuations are able, through a whole bunch of byzantine