

March 26, 1979

LB 257

SENATOR KAHLE: Oh, I see.

SENATOR WESELY: See, this is trying to attempt...there are legitimate uses of these devices and I don't want to prohibit those but there are also some very obnoxious uses of these equipment and that is why I want to get at that problem.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well I guess what I am afraid of is that if we continue to let this happen without restrictions that we will be pestered a great lot more because of our sophisticated phone equipment...

SENATOR WESELY: Oh, yes.

SENATOR KAHLE: ...and the way it is handled, but right now what does it do? Give it to me one more time.

SENATOR WESELY: Okay, it would do a number of things. First off, in order for a company to install one of these electronic phone devices they would have to get a permit from the Public Service Commission. Presently you don't have to have any sort of restrictions whatsoever. Secondly, when they would make a phone call through this device they would have to say, I am so and so representing so and so at this number and I am calling you about this. They would have to identify themselves. Then the third thing is that when they got done with the message or when you hung up, which a lot of people are going to do, then that device has to disconnect as soon as the telephone company equipment will allow so it doesn't linger. There have been cases where a six minute message will keep somebody from calling a hospital or doctor or something. So that is in there and also the Public Service Commission has the ability to make whatever rules they need to regulate this device.

SENATOR KAHLE: What happens if we don't pass this bill?

SENATOR WESELY: You will have no control or regulation whatsoever on these devices.

SENATOR KAHLE: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Clark, did you wish to talk?

SENATOR CLARK: Yes, about twenty minutes. I would like to ask Senator Wesely some questions on this.

SENATOR WESELY: Certainly.