

March 27, 1979

LB 460

utility enacted lifeline legislation, enacted a lifeline rate through this legislation, the additional cost incurred in terms of the people that you are concerned about, is going to be very minimal but it is going to have a very positive, a very definite effect on those people who can least afford to pay their utility bills right now. Now if you don't give two cents about the elderly and the low income people, then that's fine. That is your business out what I am telling you is that the amount of money that it is going to cost, additional costs to the farmer or to the individual that runs a business is going to be so minute, it is going to be so small, it is going to be so infinitesimal, they won't even know about it unless you send them a letter. It is going to be very small but it is going to have a very positive benefit on those people that can least afford it. Let me correct something that Senator Murphy said because this bill, when people think of lifeline they usually think of a special rate for senior citizens or a special rate for low income people. This bill does not do that. This bill provides a lifeline rate to all consumers if the local utility company wants to provide it. So that means that Senator Kahle and Senator Simon and a senior citizen and a low income person and Senator Lamb, if we resided in the same district and that utility decide to exercise that option, that permissive enabling legislation provided for in 460, we would all get a lower rate for the first five hundred kilowatt hours or up to that and that is all that it does. I can't help it, Senator Kahle, if you don't understand the bill but I think that is a lousy reason to vote to kill it. That is a lousy reason to introduce...you said you didn't understand the bill. I am trying to explain it to you. Oh, you understand it now? I cannot understand how you can stand up one time and talk about the need of local officials to be able to do what they want to do and here we give them the tools and the mechanism and you say, no, we don't want to let them do that. We like things just the way they are. I would suggest to you, Senator Kahle, and to others, let the people at the local level make that determination. Those people on the local boards know what is going on in their community...

SENATOR NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR SIMON: ...they know whether or not this type of permissive legislation should be enacted in their community. They best, much more so, than any Senator on this floor can make that determination and I am willing to let them