

March 27, 1979

LB 143

SENATOR SIMON: Thank you. This amendment was offered by myself. Actually it is at the request of the REAs. They would like to have this in as clarifying language. This amendment and the adoption of the committee amendments as Senator Newell has stated eliminates any objection from any utility whatsoever so I would move for the adoption of my amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the adoption of the amendment to the committee amendments and the amendment is found on page 513. All those in favor of the adoption of the amendment vote aye, opposed vote no. Clerk, record the vote.

CLERK: 17 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the amendment, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The amendment to the committee amendments is adopted. Now are we ready for the committee amendments as amended?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes, I move the adoption of the committee amendments which is a rewrite of the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise only to state this. This may be a compromise by the utilities. They are all interested as associations. For all I know I'm sure that is correct but I can tell you it is not an agreed bill with some of the small communities. Last night I spent some time with some of my small community towns who have a contract but they have the responsibility for the collection of the electrical costs from the people in that district and if you think that this compromise is acceptable to them, then you had better go talk to them because I can tell you it is not. Those are...we are talking about the small towns. We are talking about people who serve on city councils or town boards that are essentially volunteers. They may have one person. Some of these small towns have a lot of problems collecting as it is for utility rates. With the prescribed procedure that is in here the odds of them inadvertently making a mistake or spending three, four, or five hundred dollars for attorney fees to make sure they don't make a mistake, are very likely and they expressed a great deal of concern and I could not support this bill regardless of its fine merits because that I cannot argue with, but as long as those small communities that are required to do the kind of procedure that

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