

March 27, 1979

LB 143

is required here, you are talking about communities where they know everyone, where they have problems. I suppose you would call them deadbeats, where they have problems, or consistent problems or monthly problems and this bill as it is being presented as an agreed bill, I can tell you it is not agreed with those communities and as long as they are a part of it I will not support it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Simon, do you wish to speak to the committee amendments as amended?

SENATOR SIMON: I had hoped, Mr. President, I would not have to discuss the amendments but since Senator Warner brought up some points and even if it doesn't change his vote I do want the record clear, and, Senator Warner, I am going to address all my remarks to you, sir. A couple of points, number one, I don't think in all honesty that the communities which you are talking about have seen nor do they understand the white copy of the bill. I think that they are essentially addressing the green copy. Now if I can make a couple of other comments, there is no attorney's fee involved. There is nothing that delays the collections. There is no additional cost incurred by the utility. I don't think there is any cost incurred either with the bill as written, certainly not with the amendments, very definitely no additional cost incurred. There would be no cost whatsoever. The four or five hundred dollars that you mentioned for attorneys fees is not there. Senator Warner. You cannot show me anyplace in the bill as amended where there would be that cost. It is just not the case. I would just again reiterate the point that the amendments have been approved by the REAs and, yes, Senator Warner, while they collectively represent all of the communities in the state that they serve, they cannot categorically speak for each and every one. It may be unfortunate that a couple of communities in your area have taken a philosophical position against the bill even as amended but I can say categorically that the REAs do support the bill as amended, as the amendments are offered, and no utility does oppose the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you wish to close on the committee amendments?

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, again I would say that the Miscellaneous Subjects Committee has worked long and hard on the utility shutoff or disconnect bill. This is the third year that this illustrious piece of legislation has been before our committee. This is the