

March 29, 1979

LB 495

have to be an election for the awarding of a franchise, but it does indicate that if a franchise is awarded, that when rates are changed that there be a public hearing and that there be notice to the customer of the impending hearing. So I would move for the adoption of that amendment. I think right now that cable television is kind of a fledgling industry whose main value is seen as entertainment but I think it has a long range potential to be one of the major communications industry similar I guess to the telephone company and maybe even a potential beyond that and that the rates right now, although they might not be a matter of great public concern, I know that in Lincoln that some people have been concerned about their rates being raised without them even being aware that there was a pending increase. I think as more and more people depend upon cable television or find it of value beyond its entertainment value, then it will have a greater public concern. So I would move for the adoption of this amendment. I have visited with Senator George and with Senator Newell and I believe neither one has an objection to the amendment. It simply requires public hearing and notice to customers because of rate increases.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: A question of Senator Fowler. Steve, will this in any way limit the ability of a company to raise that rate or is this just public notice?

SENATOR FOWLER: It is just public notice and public hearing.

SENATOR MURPHY: The rate can up, if it is necessary, be raised even though the public hearing might be adverse?

SENATOR FOWLER: It would still be up to the governing board to do that, right? It doesn't change that at all.

SENATOR MURPHY: Now you are saying the governing board?

SENATOR FOWLER: The city council or board of trustees that authorize the original franchise.

SENATOR MURPHY: I see. Fine, thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion is the adoption of the Fowler amendments to LB 495. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Senator Johnson, you have your light on. Do you want to speak? Okay. We are voting on the adoption of the Fowler amendments to LB 495 on Select File. Record the vote.