

April 3, 1979

LB 143

SENATOR SIMON: No.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Okay. Okay, Senator Simon, in Section 3, Subsection 2, whose job is this currently? In other words, who is doing this? Who is preparing this statement for disconnection at this point in time? Do you have any idea who is doing that in...

SENATOR SIMON: Well it would be more than one person, Senator Venditte, but it would be the people in the office that handles the billing...the billing office people.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Well, I guess that's my concern at this point, Senator Simon, with the...with this particular piece of legislation that is now pending, and if it does become law, I see it as doing two things. Number one, I see additional staff being needed, and secondly, I see it to be an unnecessary burden on the ratepayers of this state, and additional concerns that I have, for example Senator Simon, again in Section 3, Subsection 6, at whose expense is this going to be if the ratepayer were proven wrong and all of his efforts to have his lines...in the process of his being informed, or she being informed, that he is going to be disconnected? If they are in the final analysis proven wrong and they do owe the utility company money, and let's say the effort was an effort in futility, at whose expense is that going to be then, Senator Simon? Is the ratepayer going to be involved in any...in any expense in terms of this litigation process?

SENATOR SIMON: There is no litigation process, Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: What about the conference? You mentioned the word conference in here.

SENATOR SIMON: A conference is when I go down and talk to the clerk and say I've got a problem with my bill.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Well, I guess the question that I think the majority of the people of this Legislature should ask... has anyone in this state ever died as a result of being disconnected with gas or electricity? Has anyone in this state ever been maimed or physically abused as a result of disconnection? Ladies and gentlemen of this Legislature, again...

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR VENDITTE: I don't think this particular piece of

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