

April 3, 1979

LB 143

legislation serves to protect the interest of the people of this state, and again I think the people who make an effort to want to pay their bills, the average person in this state, is in my opinion being discriminated against. I suspect that I have just as many minorities living in my district who find it...who find it very difficult to pay their utility bills. As a matter of fact, I had a phone call last week, an old Italian gentleman in my neighborhood who lives about two blocks from me. He can't speak English very well, but because I can understand English and speak English...or Italian fluently, he called me. He said, Senator my bill for last month was a \$135.00 and his whole house is no bigger than the Senator's lounge. He said I was in the hospital for three weeks. We turned my thermostat down to 68. How could it be a \$135.00? I called MUD and I discussed this with the Assistant Manager there at MUD and he looked into it right away.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You've got 15 seconds left, Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Ladies and gentlemen of the Legislature, I think that every ratepayer of this state would be afforded the same kind of time, and the same kind of congeniality that was shown to me when I called at the request of one of my constituents. I think this legislation is unnecessary, and I don't think that the bill should be advanced, and Mr. Speaker, I will ask for a machine vote.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope, do you wish to be recognized on the advancement of the bill?

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I have opposed this bill before for the very simple reason, at least in my part of the state in my district, we just don't need it. The people are being taken care of, and taken care of very well, and it is going to cost more money. I have a letter here from our City Manager and with an estimate of about \$2688.00 since the bill has passed. Now that isn't a great deal of money, but it is money that the ratepayer, and I repeat, the ratepayer is going to pay, and if those are multiplied by different utilities, different things, it does amount to quite a sum of money. So, as I have before, I do oppose LB 143.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Simon, are you ready to move on the adoption? Senator Venditte, your light's still on. Do you want to make...okay, Senator Simon.