

March 15, 1982

LB 633, 816, 882, 893

Kahle on LB 882; one to Senator Carsten regarding LB 816 and a fourth to Senator Cullan on LB 893. (See pages 1153-1163 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Alright, we're ready then for the next bill on General File, priority consent calendar, LB 633.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 633 is a bill offered by Senator Clark. (Read.) The bill was read on January 6, referred to Public Works. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. There are Public Works Committee amendments pending.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kremer for purposes of discussing the committee amendment.

SENATOR KREMER: Mr. Chairman, members, here again we're dealing with telephone companies in a little bit different light. This bill, just to make a brief statement, I already explained the amendments, provides that a telephone company can assess a rate increase and impose that increase on a temporary basis until such time that the PSC acts upon it. However, the committee amendments provide, since we use the language, "common carrier," it limits the word common carrier to telephone companies. So we're dealing under the committee amendment only with telephone companies. Secondly, it provides that they can collect only 75% on a provincial basis of this rate request until such time that the PSC acts upon it. Then should the PSC make a decision and they are in excess of what they are allowed under this decision, that excess has to be returned to the subscriber. That, in essence, is the explanation of the committee amendments. I move their adoption.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Clark. Okay, Senator Beutler, do you wish to discuss the committee amendments? Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: A question of Senator Kremer, if I may.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer, will you respond.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kremer, the committee apparently added the language, "When making its final determination on the application, the commission shall not consider the rates and charges of the company put into effect pending such final determination." What is the purpose of that particular language?

SENATOR KREMER: Well, the rate increase can take place only until such time, I mean on a temporary basis, and then only 75% of the request, until such time the PSC acts upon it.