

March 15, 1982

LB 633, 668

they think they should be getting. They will simply make that adjustment beforehand so that the provision relating to 75% of the request is not necessarily going to have any effect whatsoever and I think maybe a sham and I think that this bill needs further amendment in the sense that it needs some mechanism to ensure that the telephone companies will themselves continue to negotiate the rates in a good faith method and without delay. If nobody else makes that kind of amendment I suppose I will be back with some suggestions in that regard on Select File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? Senator Clark, you may close.

SENATOR CLARK: What Senator Beutler says has nothing to do with the telephone company negotiating anything. The PSC can set this rate within seven months time. That is what it is for. They can do it. I don't care if they ask for 5000% more than what they think they can get. If they do this within seven months which they should do and the law says they should do it now, the PSC sets their rate and that is all there is to it. What this will do will make them set that rate within a seven month period of time. The telephone company does not want to go in and put in any kind of an artificial rate. They would much prefer to have the rate that is going to be set eventually anyway by the PSC and that is what the bill does. So the PSC will still set the rate regardless of what happens. The telephone company cannot come in and ask for 5000% more. The PSC will set that rate within a seven month period and I merely ask for the bill to go to E & R.

PRESIDENT: The motion is to ... he was closing, Senator Higgins. The motion is the advance of LB 633. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 31 ayes, 1 nay, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. LB 633 is advanced to E & R initial. The next bill is LB 668.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 668 offered by Senators Barrett, Remmers, Sieck, Schmit and Richard Peterson. (Read.) The bill was read on January 6 of this year. It was referred to the Ag and Environment Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File. Mr. President, I do have Agricultural and Environmental Committee amendments attached.