

SENATOR ELMER: Madam President, Senator Withem, would you yield to a question or two?

SENATOR WITHEM: Certainly.

SENATOR ELMER: Thank you, Senator Withem. Some of the questions I have are as to how this...how this one-call system is to be financed. Now my understanding is that with the one-call mandatory system you would have a central dispatching area where people would be on call 24 hours a day. Is that correct?

SENATOR WITHEM: They would be...the phone would be answered, I believe,...I don't know, I think that would be set up by the operating procedures of the system.

SENATOR ELMER: Okay. The second thing that I have understood, from visiting with people in the industry, is that when the call is accepted by the one-call center, and the area identified where the excavation is going to take place, the individuals within the one-call center look at the records of the geographical location of that point where the excavation is going to take place and identifies those utilities that have buried...actually have buried facilities at that location. Is that correct?

SENATOR WITHEM: That's my understanding of how they usually work in common practice.

SENATOR ELMER: Okay. And of all of the people that are participating in this one-call system, there may be only say two...

SENATOR WITHEM: Correct.

SENATOR ELMER: ...that may have something buried where this excavation is going to take place. Then, at that point, the one-call operator makes a ticket to each one of those two that actually have a buried facility where this excavation is going to take place, then calls that utility that is identified as having the system there, tells them about the excavation, then makes arrangements to identify where they are,...

SENATOR WITHEM: Correct.