

April 8, 1994

LB 1044

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Any discussion? Hearing none, all those in favor say aye. All those opposed nay. The E & R amendments are adopted.

CLERK: Senator Chambers would move to amend the bill. (Chambers amendment, FA539, may be found on page 1819 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Senator Chambers, to open on the amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, what this amendment does is to take Lancaster County out of this bill. The language says that a county containing a city of the primary class will not be covered by this bill and what we're dealing with is not the first 50 cents that has been allowed to be tacked onto a person's phone bill in order to facilitate the implementation of 911 systems. Some of the areas of the state who came to Senator Vrtiska for assistance wanted some additional funds made available and Senator Vrtiska, in helping them, brought this bill. It would allow an additional 50 cents to be added to phone bills. At this point, I'm not talking about my overall opposition to fees of that kind. I'm talking about removing Lancaster County. If you look at the committee statement, you'll see that a person representing the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County opposed this bill. What often happens is that when people are taking a principal position they realize that they ought not support a bill like this. Then when somebody says, but wait a minute, we can get some extra money from the people, they won't even know it, it will be on their phone bills, then somebody comes in and says, well, maybe the city should change its position, maybe the county should change its position. The interesting thing about this matter is that I was able to get an amendment that removed Douglas County from the operation of this bill, meaning that no additional 50 cents will be put on the phone bills of the residents of Douglas County. I got about five or six calls from people in Lincoln concerned because they will have an additional 50 cents put on their phone bill. And I said, I don't live in Lincoln, I don't represent Lincoln. I said I try to help people where I can but I'm from Omaha, why do you call me because you have five senators? They said they saw in the paper where I had offered an amendment that removed Douglas County, so, because of the concern that I had expressed, they thought that I'd be able to help in this regard. I have said repeatedly that our

12869