

Mr. Orr moved a call of the House.

The roll being called, the following members answered to their names:

Anderson, J.,	Dindorf,	Klemer,	Orr,	Stone,
Anderson, W.,	Dunn, R. C.,	Knapp,	Palmer,	Stoven,
Barten,	Dwyer,	Kneeland,	Papke,	Sullivan,
Bendixen,	Elmer,	Knopp,	Peterson, A. B.,	Sundberg,
Bjorge,	Finke,	Larson,	Peterson, A. J.,	Swenson,
Bjornson,	Frankson,	Lennon,	Peterson, P. A.,	Teigen,
Borgen,	Frye,	Lindberg,	Pfaender,	Thielen,
Bouck,	Fuchs,	Lundeen,	Pless,	Thornton,
Braatelian,	Greene,	Lydiard,	Preston,	Thorson,
Brown, G. W.,	Hafften,	McGarry,	Prince,	Vasaly,
Brown, W. W.,	Hanson,	McMartin,	Putnam,	Virtue,
Burchard,	Harrison,	Marschalk,	Reed,	Voxland,
Burrows,	Healy,	Minette,	Ribenack,	Walker,
Campbell,	Henry,	Moeller,	Saggau,	Warner, A. L.,
Carlson,	Hillman,	Morken,	Sanborn,	Warner, C. H.,
Child,	Hogenson,	Nelson,	Sawyer,	Wefald,
Clementson,	Holmberg,	Nimocks,	Schwartz,	Weld,
Coates,	Hopkins,	Nolan,	Seebach,	Wescott,
Conley,	Johnson, A. C.,	Norton,	Skartum,	Westman,
Crane,	Johnson, J. T.,	Ofsthun,	Southwick,	Williams,
Crawford,	Just,	Olien,	Spooner,	Wilson,
Davis,	Kimpel,	O'Neill,	Stageberg,	Mr. Speaker.

On motion of Mr. Holmberg, further proceedings under the call were dispensed with.

MESSAGE FROM THE GOVERNOR.

STATE OF MINNESOTA,  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

ST. PAUL, April 19, 1913.

*Hon. Henry Rines,*

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

SIR: I have the honor to return herewith, without my approval—

H. F. No. 573, A bill for an act to regulate telephone companies and to place them under the control and jurisdiction of the Railroad and Warehouse Commission.

My action is taken for the following reasons:

1. The regulation attempted by this bill has one defect which absolutely condemns it. It confers no authority to prevent the watering of stocks and bonds. No regulation of public utilities can be effective without complete control over the issuing of stocks and bonds and granting of franchises as well as authority to make physical valuations of properties. Without such con-

trol and authority, intelligent and effective regulation is impossible. This bill, therefore, does not confer the necessary authority to regulate, and I will not give my consent to the enactment of a law which lacks the most vital elements of regulation.

2. While it is true that the principle of this bill in providing for state regulation instead of local municipal regulation is right, there is no valid reason why a specific law should be enacted for each utility. Such a plan must necessarily result in delaying and complicating the regulation of public utilities.

3. This bill attempts to place the regulation of telephone companies under the control and jurisdiction of the Railroad and Warehouse Commission. Under the distance and joint tariff laws recently enacted, the Legislature has imposed upon this Commission the making of millions of new tariffs, joint tariffs and classifications, and the further addition thereto of regulating about eight hundred and fifty telephone companies, will result in more work than is consistent with the efficient personal attention and supervision of that board.

4. Regulation of public utilities should be vested in an appointive state board. This is essential in order that the board may be non-partisan and as far as possible removed from political influence. All recognized authorities on public utilities regulation and the experience of every state now engaged therein agree on this point.

This bill contains some very good provisions, such as the enforcement of physical connections between the various telephone companies. These provisions should be incorporated in the general utilities law when enacted.

In view of the fact that the Legislature will be called together in extra session within a few months, at such time as it will be most convenient to the members, for the specific purpose of enacting a strong and efficient general public utilities law, such as the one now in force in Wisconsin, New Jersey and other progressive and well governed states, there can be no possible excuse for the passage of H. F. No. 573, which is admitted to be vitally defective in its most important provisions, and I therefore return the same without my approval.

Very respectfully,

ADOLPH O. EBERHART,  
Governor.