

1 -- my home is a 90-year-old home. You know, wind flies
2 through all kinds of cracks and crevices the older the
3 home, and there's some that we have in our city and
4 region that are, in fact, 100 plus years old. We, we
5 have a serious problem and perhaps we can set up
6 programs from any number of groups to fix those
7 problems.

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Chairman?

9 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Okay. I just want to go
10 back. Representative Fraser, do you think that the
11 interest part of this agreement that we're here to
12 discuss today allows Laclede to double-dip?

13 MS. FRASER: I think I'm very concerned --
14 and those are my words. I think I'm very concerned --
15 I know I'm very concerned about this whole issue with
16 the infrastructure and how we already have in place the
17 6.1 million dollars into a permanent rate increase.
18 Then if we're going to do it on a yearly basis, are we
19 adding money to that. And if, in fact, we have the 6
20 million left over, how is that going to be used and how
21 will it be more responsive? And I'm asking you to look
22 at that and look at it very carefully so that we aren't
23 doing that. I can't judge that. I don't know the
24 answer to your question, but what I'm asking you is for
25 you to know the answer to that question and to make

1 sure that's not happening.

2 If I put aside 6 million for
3 infrastructure and then I say, but there's a 3 million
4 dollar bill and I want you to pay the 3 million extra
5 this year. Then we've got to be sure that that 6
6 million is also used for that infrastructure and not
7 just held outside. So I appreciate you being here and
8 asking that question.

9 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Okay. That answers my
10 question and we will look at that.

11 MS. FRASER: Thank you very much and I
12 thank the representatives from Laclede for being here
13 to hear these comments as well. Thank you all.

14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Were there any
15 questions from counsel for Representative Fraser?

16 MR. DANDINO: No questions. Thank you.

17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Pendergast?

18 MR. PENDERGAST: Yes. Representative
19 Fraser, I just wanted to let you know that I'm more
20 than happy to sit down and talk to you about the
21 program, as well as decreased funding for
22 weatherization, which I know is a concern that you
23 have. We will certainly make our accounting people
24 available to you to explain to you how the increase
25 works, how much investment we make every year. You

1 weren't here earlier when we talked about how Laclede
2 has made \$90 million worth of investments. Of the last
3 rate increase, approximately \$40 million of that was
4 used in safety-related investments covered by the
5 interest of 6.1, and it only provides a return on the
6 investments we made. And we will not get that
7 investment back in some cases for thirty or forty
8 years.

9 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Pendergast, you're
10 going to have to use a mic so that everybody can hear
11 you.

12 Mr. Pendergast was trying to explain the
13 infrastructure program to the representative. I'm
14 afraid that's too much to go into at this point in the
15 hearing because you're not going to be able to hear
16 everybody's testimony. But he was offering to speak to
17 the representative about that.

18 MS. FRASER: I'm certainly available to do
19 that and I thank you for being here.

20 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Meyer?

21 MR. MEYER: No.

22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you, Representative.

23 MS. FRASER: Thank you very much and thank
24 you again for being here.

25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Trotter, since you've

1 previously been sworn, I'll ask you to --

2 MR. TROTTER: Madam Chairperson -- I'm
3 sorry, your Honor. Your Honor, as you judicate this
4 process, there's a process in which puts you in charge
5 of the process and gives the Commissioners the
6 opportunity to listen to what we have to say in an era
7 of freedom and to be able to speak. I appreciate
8 several of the apologies by some of the Commissioners.
9 I felt, for the record, and I will send a letter to the
10 Governor, that the inappropriateness of the Chairman to
11 single me out for being over-passionate.

12 I may apologize. And for the record, I'm
13 going to apologize for being passionate and for being
14 verbalized and being able to speak my mind as an
15 American should. But I do want the record to note that
16 while I was doing this -- and I'm happy that the press
17 is not here, because I wasn't looking for a show or a
18 showdown. But I'm happy that the whole purpose of, of
19 what we're here is to speak our mind. If in the future
20 that the judge sets the perimeters for what we can and
21 can't do as you judicate this process, it would be
22 appropriate for us to follow those procedures.

23 I am over 50 years old and I'm old enough
24 to be the judge's father and I am totally outraged. In
25 my life, I've been on the National Board of the NAACP,

1 the Urban League, the local Urban League, on boards all
2 across this country from Junior Achievement, you name
3 it. I've sat with Republicans, Democrats. No one has
4 ever said what they said to me or to anybody who's here
5 as a Laclede Gas customer to talk about their rate
6 increase. So let me apologize for being over
7 enthusiastic.

8 I will accept the apology of the most
9 appropriate member who gave an apology on behalf of the
10 Commission. I find it very difficult and very personal
11 and very demeaning to have the Chairman of the
12 Commission -- it sets the tone for the public to see
13 and to concluded, well, who's side is he on. We all
14 have a right to speak our mind. It was your
15 responsibility, Madam, Justice, to say, out of order or
16 in order. It was not left up to this judication
17 process for the Commissioner to single me out when we
18 had all these other people clapping and talking and
19 being expressive as they did after I held back because
20 you have to get hundreds of thousands of calls and you
21 have to know this community, the white community, the
22 black community, the poor community, the rich
23 community, the gay community, the straight community.
24 You have to know this community to appreciate these are
25 bad times. So it hurts me to see that the public, from

1 my standpoint, is being mistreated by utility companies
2 and I intend to do something about it.

3 Again, to you because I did not know what
4 the rules were, I extend an apology. I now know,
5 although I still don't know in detail. I think it's
6 appropriate for you to do that. I am appalled by your
7 leadership and your decision to do what you did, Mr.
8 Chairman, and I find it inappropriate in America.
9 Thank you, Madam.

10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Trotter, did you have
11 any other comments regarding the rate increase?

12 MR. TROTTER: I spoke earlier on the rate
13 increase. I may have additional comments later this
14 evening at Harris-Stowe, and at that time I would hope,
15 Madam Judge, that we're able to spell out for the
16 audience.

17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Trotter, I appreciate
18 your comment. I did not make it clear at the beginning
19 what was expected of the attendees. Thank you.

20 MR. TROTTER: Yes, ma'am. Thank you,
21 ma'am.

22 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Mr. Trotter, I do
23 apologize to you, humbly and sincerely. I did not
24 mean to offend you earlier. I did not mean to attempt
25 to silence anyone's testimony. That was not my intent.

1 I was intent on listening to the witness and I
2 apologize for finding your remarks distracting. That
3 being said, I agree that there were other people here
4 that also made similar comments and they were not
5 addressed. So I do apologize, Mr. Trotter, and it is
6 noted. I agree that it was extremely unfair that I
7 would single you out, and I apologize.

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. The next
9 witness. Please raise your right hand.

10 MS. TATE: I'm not about to do that, but I
11 will affirm it's true.

12 JUDGE DIPPELL: That's fine. Do you
13 affirm to tell the truth to this hearing?

14 MS. TATE: Yes.

15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Then please state your
16 name and spell it for the court reporter.

17 MS. TATE: Okay. My name is Ahdenah Tate,
18 A-H-D-E-N-A-H. Last name T-A-T-E. My address is 908
19 North McKnight, St. Louis, Missouri, 63132.

20 JUDGE DIPPELL: And are you a Laclede Gas
21 Company customer?

22 MS. TATE: I am.

23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Would you please give us
24 your comment?

25 MS. TATE: I am here today to express the

1 hardship that any additional increase in the price of
2 my Laclede bill will cause me and my children. I'm
3 also surprised that this room is not jam-packed. I am
4 one of what falls in between the category of those that
5 are offered in this situation. I'm not quite elderly,
6 but I'm close. Thank God, I'm not handicapped, but I
7 work from week to week, and I live paycheck to paycheck
8 and I'm paying a very inordinately high Laclede Gas
9 bill. It's almost triple. I have spent many hours
10 down at the Laclede Gas offices. I've shown them, you
11 know, the differences over the past few years and how
12 my bills have jumped. I've also explained to them and
13 shown them what I'm working with on a month-to-month
14 basis, and there's really -- with all that is offered
15 in assistance for those that are considered the working
16 poor, it really is deficient to help. What I mean by
17 that is for all the agencies that are in this to help,
18 they do help.

19 But what happens is what I consider a very
20 vicious cycle. What happens is that you have a very
21 high gas bill, which you are unable to meet if it's
22 higher than normal. Then you contact the resource
23 center there that they offer you to help you with this
24 situation. What happens is you're on the phone for a
25 very long time, if you can get through. Then if you

1 can get through, they'll ask that you bring down all
2 your documentation to show that you're in the hardship.
3 When you do that process, then they tell you, well, we
4 only have limited resources available, and so what
5 happens is, in the whole process, by the time you're
6 finished, what you've got to do -- looking at the high
7 bill.

8 You now, in addition, receive now a budget
9 plan. If you're trying to live from month-to-month and
10 you can't meet your month-to-month bills, then the
11 budget that they put on is an additional cost that you
12 must meet. If you can't meet that, then you incur what
13 they call a deposit, a major deposit that you must put
14 on, and it's a vicious cycle.

15 I mean, I, I am the most frustrated
16 working mother that I know. I'm sure there's others,
17 but I'm a mother of six. I have three in college
18 presently, right now, and it is really hard. I mean,
19 I'm working every day. I work for St. Louis County
20 government. I'm working every day just to make ends
21 meet and this vicious cycle that I'm caught in is
22 really causing undue hardship. Whereas this amount may
23 seem minimal to most on this Public Service Commission,
24 but those of us that work from paycheck to paycheck,
25 any increase is, is more than you can afford. And I

1 don't see anything really structured to help those that
2 are in my category. As I said, thank God I am not
3 handicapped, but I'm not elderly to qualify under those
4 circumstances. So where does a person in my
5 circumstance fit into this system?

6 There's got to be some way and some
7 measure that you could help those of us that work every
8 day, but simply can't afford these rising costs. It's
9 just really inordinately high. It's a hardship and
10 it's a vicious cycle that we get caught up in, and I'm
11 just hoping -- I mean, I thought Representative Fraser
12 spoke eloquently to address what the situation looks
13 like. It's really hard and it's a vicious cycle and I
14 think even with the brochures that were demonstrated
15 today, I see no real end in sight to those that are
16 like me, with those problems that I endure every day.
17 So I appreciate you hearing me. I also don't
18 understand in circumstances like Representative Fraser
19 outlined.

20 If you happen to live in an apartment
21 building, such as I do, where it's old, where the
22 insulation is, is inadequate, where you're living in a
23 drafty apartment and then you just happen to question
24 why your bills are so high. They tell you, well, it's
25 because you have a faulty heater or because your

1 windows are drafty. Well, whose responsibility is it
2 to take care of? You only know that once we read the
3 high bill. In other words, we find out, well, it may
4 be because of faulty insulation and then we've got to
5 go talk to the landlord. And then who's holding the
6 landlord accountable? As a consumer, I now have to go
7 and fight the landlord and say, "Listen, the reason my
8 bills are higher is because your apartment is drafty."

9 What do I do if you're caught in this
10 vicious cycle? While the representatives at Laclede
11 Gas are sympathetic, they really don't do anything.
12 They really don't do anything. They listen, they hear,
13 they nod, they refer to the different resources that
14 are listed here. They tell you their funds are
15 limited. We can only give you so much. We have so
16 many people to help, and so you're still caught. And
17 like I said, in my particular case, whatever help that
18 I receive simply goes to the cost they now put on me
19 with this large deposit. It doesn't do anything for
20 the large bill. It just takes care of the deposit. If
21 you miss one, one payment, you're right back at square
22 one and the cycle starts again. You've incurred
23 another large deposit. You've now got another budget
24 plan. If you miss the budget plan, you start all over
25 again.

1 Like I said, it's a vicious cycle. It
2 goes nowhere. We need some help and I'm hoping that
3 this Commission will hear and will take the words that
4 have been said here into consideration. There are
5 those that are working every day that have it difficult
6 as well. I appreciate you listening to me.

7 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Commissioner
8 Murray, any questions?

9 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I don't believe so.
10 Thank you.

11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Gaw?

12 COMMISSIONER GAW: Ms. Tate, I don't know
13 what questions to ask you. I think you've said it all.
14 There are a lot of pressures out there on people who
15 are trying to make ends meet right now, and all of them
16 seem to be going in the wrong direction and it's a big
17 concern. If you've got three kids in college right
18 now, trying to take care of expenses for that, and
19 you've also got three kids still in the home?

20 MS. TATE: No. My three are now on their
21 own.

22 COMMISSIONER GAW: Oh, so the other three
23 are out, but still you've got the three in college.
24 We've talked about, and I won't belabor this, but one
25 of the big issues that we have in regard to how to do

1 something about some of these older buildings is that
2 they are owned by landlords and the landlords generally
3 are not paying the utility bill. There's a huge
4 disconnect, as you've already pointed out and we had an
5 inside long-term portability task force that studied
6 some of these issues and that was one of the issues
7 that they struggled with. So I want to work on it. I
8 think, I think we've got to come up with some solutions
9 because as far as prices are concerned, at least in the
10 immediate future, they sure are headed in the wrong
11 direction. Thank you. I'm sorry. That really wasn't
12 a question.

13 MS. TATE: Thank you.

14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Clayton?

15 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Ms. Tate, thank you
16 for being here today and I appreciate your testimony.
17 You said that Representative Fraser spoke eloquently
18 and I agree with many things that she said, but I think
19 you spoke very eloquently of a much larger problem that
20 surpasses what this rate case is about. It's really
21 not a dollar a month that we're talking about here.
22 Even if this Commission were to reject this settlement
23 or say zero increase -- even if we did that, you still
24 got problems. You've still got bills that you've got
25 to pay. You still have high gas prices, and really

1 that's what is jumping out and is grabbing everybody is
2 those higher natural gas prices.

3 As someone who is kind of in the middle,
4 you have children, you're working, have income, don't -
5 - maybe don't need certain programs, do you have
6 specific suggestions for this Commission about what
7 areas we really ought to look at? What the Commission
8 could do to find solutions? It's easy to say, don't
9 raise prices, but in these circumstances, that's not
10 going to do it. There's a larger problem in the long
11 run. Do you have any other suggestions that we could
12 look at?

13 MS. TATE: Well, I really, I really am in
14 the midst of trying to process all of this information.
15 You have to understand, too, the average consumer does
16 not get very detailed information on just what and how
17 these monies will be allocated, what it will solve and
18 what it will accomplish. I got more just today than I
19 have received in the newspapers or in information that
20 was sent to my home. So I intend to process all of
21 this and hopefully, as I get a clearer understanding,
22 it will kind of give me some insight on what
23 suggestions can be made.

24 But I think certainly, above and beyond
25 anything else, you should understand that nothing

1 equals nothing. If you have nothing to work with, you
2 have absolutely no more money, any increase for
3 whatever reason. The Commission has to vote one way or
4 the other. If you're operating already under a
5 hardship, any increase for any reason makes your
6 hardship even worse. That's as simple as I can put it.

7 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I'm glad that you
8 have that information. We have staff here that provide
9 ways of getting additional information. We have a toll
10 free number to call. I know you're not looking to make
11 another phone call to yet another government agency,
12 but that's how it works. I just want to make sure
13 that if the number isn't on there, that you stay in the
14 case and if you have suggestions, please pass them
15 along to us. Thank you.

16 MS. TATE: Thank you.

17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Chairman, any
18 questions?

19 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: No. Ms. Tate, thanks.

20 MS. TATE: Thank you.

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mrs. Williams, I have you
22 on the list. Unfortunately there are five other people
23 ahead of you.

24 MS. WILLIAMS: Oh, okay. I didn't know
25 it.

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: And I will just say, for
2 anybody that didn't get signed up on the first two sign
3 up sheets, there's another one at the back of the room.
4 When I get through this list, I'll ask if there's
5 anybody else who would like to testify and we'll go
6 from there. We do not have to go out of the room right
7 at three, so we'll try to get through everyone. Mr.
8 Don Wallace? If you want to have someone in the
9 batter's box, I have Jeffrey Coleman next.

10 MR. WALLACE: Commissioner, my name is Don
11 Wallace. I'm a Laclede Gas customer.

12 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can I swear you in?

13 MR. WALLACE: I swear to tell the truth,
14 all that.

15 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. That's good.

16 MR. DON WALLACE,
17 of lawful age, being first duly sworn to tell the
18 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
19 deposes and says on behalf of the Commission, as
20 follows:

21 MR. WALLACE: I received your card and --

22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Could I get your name and
23 address for the record?

24 MR. WALLACE: Don Wallace, 3927 Cochila,
25 St. Louis, Missouri, 63125. That's in Mehlville.

1 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Now, we'll
2 proceed.

3 MR. WALLACE: I received your card and I
4 listened to all the comments today. I don't want to
5 take a lot of your time. I appreciate your being here.
6 I think the rate increase we got already was excessive.
7 I would just urge you as Commissioners to really look
8 at the inner structure of Laclede Gas operations and
9 try to make sure it is run in a prudent manner.

10 This card here I don't quite understand.
11 We got a rate increase. Now, they want another one it
12 looks like to me. I don't understand the Commission
13 here. It looks like you went into negotiations to
14 determine how much we're going to give to Laclede Gas
15 so they can make a donation. I never heard anything
16 like that. Who gave Laclede Gas or you the authority
17 to tell me how much I'm going to donate? I mean, I
18 donate to a lot of things, but I've never heard of a
19 Public Service Commission negotiating on how much
20 people will give to Laclede Gas so they can donate. It
21 just seems very weird to me. Maybe I'm wrong. That's
22 a question and that's all I have to say. Thank you.

23 JUDGE DIPPELL: The notice went out and it
24 did say that our staff had been involved in
25 negotiations. The Commission is actually separate from

1 their staff.

2 MR. WALLACE: Okay.

3 JUDGE DIPPELL: So just so you know, the
4 Commission hasn't yet made any decision on the
5 settlement and that's why we're here today to take
6 comments. I just wanted to clarify that.

7 Commissioner Murray, did you have any
8 questions?

9 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: I don't think I have
10 any questions, but if you would like further
11 clarification on how to get involved, we do have staff
12 here today who would be happy to talk to you and
13 explain it in more detail to you.

14 MR. WALLACE: All right. Thank you.

15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Gaw?

16 COMMISSIONER GAW: Mr. Wallace, thank you
17 for coming.

18 MS. WALLACE: Thank you.

19 COMMISSIONER GAW: We appreciate it very
20 much.

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Clayton?

22 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I don't have any
23 questions.

24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.

25 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: Excuse me, Judge.

1 Could we ask someone from staff go back and see if Mr.
2 Wallace has any questions?

3 MR. JEFFREY COLEMAN,
4 of lawful age, being first duly sworn to tell the
5 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
6 deposes and says on behalf of the Commission, as
7 follows:

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can you state your name
9 and address?

10 MR. COLEMAN: My name is Jeffrey Coleman,
11 4643 Robbins, two Bs, Grove Drive in Florissant,
12 Missouri.

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: And are you a Laclede Gas
14 Company customer?

15 MR. COLEMAN: Yes, I am.

16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Could you
17 please give us your comment?

18 MR. COLEMAN: Okay. My testimony will be
19 brief. I would like to know what is the precise amount
20 of the rate increase? Well, the rate increase that the
21 customers will see generated from the increase in
22 revenue that Laclede Gas is seeking. I'd like to know
23 what the precise increase is in price per therm? I
24 have not heard that discussed today. And the reason
25 I'd like to have that information is because I don't

1 feel that there is enough transparency on the Laclede
2 Gas customer's bills. This is the only public utility
3 I know of in greater St. Louis that does not have
4 easily predictable rates compared to say, the Ameren US
5 has the rate per kilowatt hours. Missouri American
6 Water has a rate based on hundreds of cubic feet.
7 Southwestern Bell, you know, will have a rate based on
8 minutes of call time.

9 I have no idea what Laclede Gas's rate is.
10 It appears to change from month to month. I understand
11 that a portion of it does change, but a portion of it
12 should be constant and none of that information is
13 provided to me on my bill. I'm unable to calculate
14 what the rate is and have any method for predicting my
15 rate for the future, even if I were to be able to
16 determine my therm usage. So I think that any
17 discussion of any increase in the revenue needs to be
18 done concurrently with providing more transparency to
19 the customers so they can understand what they're
20 actually paying. Because I think if this rate increase
21 goes through, we're never going to see it on the bill.
22 We have no way of knowing what that increase is
23 actually going to flow through to us. I would simply
24 like to see an itemized breakdown of the components of
25 customer bills and how they are calculated, if it's a

1 rate or if it's just a flat amount. That should be
2 spelled out on the bill like other utilities do.
3 That's all I have.

4 MS. DIPPEL: Thank you, sir. I will also
5 refer you to our staff here. They might be able to
6 explain some of that, I'm not sure, but hopefully they
7 can. If not, I'm sure that Pendergast will offer to
8 have someone in their office look at that for you

9 MR. COLEMAN: I think it's particularly
10 useful not just to discuss it with me as a single
11 customer. I think all customers who receive a bill
12 should have that information readily available to them.

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: And I appreciate your
14 comment. Commissioner Murray, any questions?

15 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: No questions, but
16 thank you. We appreciate the information.

17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Gaw?

18 COMMISSIONER GAW: Mr. Coleman, were you
19 here at the very beginning before the Commissioners
20 came in when there was a question and answer period?

21 MR. COLEMAN: No, I wasn't. I was
22 searching for legal parking outside.

23 COMMISSIONER GAW: That's what I wondered.
24 During that time frame, everybody that's in here can
25 ask questions like that and get public responses. It's

1 the best time to ask questions like that so everybody
2 can hear it.

3 MR. COLEMAN: Okay.

4 COMMISSIONER GAW: But the questions that
5 you're asking are legitimate and there are answers to
6 them and I would encourage you, if you've got a few
7 minutes right after we're finished here, to do what
8 Commissioner Murray and the judge suggested, I think,
9 to talk with our staff and maybe public counsel and
10 Laclede about how that breaks down on rates and usage
11 because it is not just, it is not just on the service
12 portion, not the gas portion, but the service portion
13 does have some usage components as well. So if you
14 want to have that discussion, I think it might be
15 helpful.

16 MR. COLEMAN: I will have that discussion
17 because I would like to know for myself, but I think
18 that people that were not able to attend the hearing
19 should also have that information.

20 COMMISSIONER GAW: I agree with you. It
21 would be much more helpful. It would also shed some
22 light on people understanding how usage impacts their
23 bill up and down and how much. I appreciate you
24 pointing it out.

25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Clayton?

1 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I don't have any
2 questions. Thank you.

3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Chairman?

4 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Mr. Coleman, I just want
5 to concur with what Commissioner Gaw said and make note
6 that my understanding is that part of this proposed
7 settlement that Laclede has to implement a utility
8 design to be in place by January 1, 2007, and that that
9 design has to be approved by our staff, as well as the
10 Office of Public Counsel, which I guess technically is
11 the attorney representing you, the rate payers, in this
12 case. So I would encourage you to sit down and talk
13 with them about your concerns about the bill and make
14 sure that they're aware of it.

15 MR. COLEMAN: I hadn't seen anything in
16 any of the materials here today about redesigning the
17 bill as of the first of 2007. Is that published
18 information or is that just --

19 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: I don't know if it was
20 published in the newspaper, but it's public record.

21 MR. COLEMAN: Okay.

22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Are there any questions,
23 Mr. Dandino?

24 MR. DANDINO: No questions.

25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Pendergast?

1 MR. PENDERGAST: Yes. Mr. Coleman, Mike
2 Pendergast. Hi, how are you?

3 MR. COLEMAN: Great.

4 MR. PENDERGAST: I appreciate your
5 testimony on the bills. Chairman Davis pointed out,
6 the redesign of the bill is part of the settlement. We
7 have conducted surveys to find out what information,
8 what customers want. If you want to talk me afterward.
9 We would like to sit down with you.

10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Mr. Pendergast said
11 that the redesign of the bill is part of the settlement
12 that they have worked out and they've had customer
13 surveys. If anyone would like to give additional
14 information about redesigning the bill, please get with
15 Mr. Pendergast or a representative and they can let you
16 know you to participate in the survey.

17 Any questions, Mr. Meyer?

18 MR. MEYER: No questions.

19 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Thank you, Mr.
20 Coleman.

21 MR. COLEMAN: Thank you.

22 MR. KEVIN PATTERSON,
23 of lawful age, being first duly sworn to tell the
24 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
25 deposes and says on behalf of the Commission, as

1 follows:

2 JUDGE DIPPELL: Could you please state
3 your name and address?

4 MR. PATTERSON: My name is Kevin
5 Patterson. I live at 10500 Wisteria Lane in St. Louis,
6 Missouri, 63126. I am a customer of Laclede Gas.

7 JUDGE DIPPELL: And could you give us your
8 comment?

9 MR. PATTERSON: Yes, ma'am. First, first
10 of all, I attended the last hearing and I got a piece
11 of literature. It was the comment form that was put
12 out at the last hearing and I'll note that bottom
13 number to the Office of Public Council, the fax number
14 of 573-351-5526 is incorrect. That the number is
15 actually is 5562. So I don't know if there's been a
16 lot of people trying to fax this information, but
17 didn't get it in. I just wanted to point out that the
18 information that the Public Service Commission gave out
19 on these comment forms are wrong, that the fax number
20 is incorrect.

21 JUDGE DIPPELL: I'm sorry. Thank you for
22 bringing that to our attention. We're obviously
23 confused about where the public comment form came from.

24 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Is that from the OPC or
25 PSC? Is that the Commission or Office of Public

1 Council?

2 MR. PATTERSON: That was the Office of
3 Public Council's fax, but the comment sheet was on the
4 table at the last hearing. It says public comment
5 before the Public Service Commission of the State of
6 Missouri.

7 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you for bringing
8 that to our attention. We'll look into it and where
9 exactly those came from and why they had the wrong
10 number on there.

11 MR. PATTERSON: Yeah, you had a bunch of
12 them at the last hearing laying out on the table and
13 then there's none of them at this one. So I wanted to
14 bring that to your attention.

15 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.

16 MR. PATTERSON: Okay. Next issue. We've
17 heard a lot of testimony here today with that fact that
18 this rate increase is going to create such a burden to
19 a lot of people here in the City of St. Louis. I still
20 have something that's very troublesome to me. You've
21 heard testimony from the people that can't afford these
22 increases in these rates. I wanted to tell you, again,
23 I'm going to fire on the top five executives because
24 that's all the information that came out in the paper,
25 was the salary and the bonuses that these people are

1 getting. I'm going to tell you something. The CEO of
2 Laclede Gas in 2003 got a \$156,000 bonus. In 2004, it
3 was \$226,000. What in the world is it going to be this
4 year in 2005? What in the world is it going to be,
5 \$500,000? This has got to stop.

6 I am asking the Public Service Commission
7 to look at this. This is a public utility. I could
8 understand it if it was a private sector or something
9 like that. I do not understand why the Public Service
10 Commission is going to allow such enormous bonuses off
11 the back of our working people and our poor people.
12 Another one, and this is just a comment, when you're
13 getting 10.5 million dollars given to you from the
14 Public Service Commission, well, I'd be darned glad to
15 give you a million on the back myself. If I was to win
16 the lottery, I'll give you a million dollars to help
17 these people.

18 Next order or comment was, earlier there
19 was a union rep come up here and ask what the rate
20 increase was for and all that stuff and the answer was
21 given -- depreciation. Well, depreciation of what?
22 Their cars, their buildings? You know, what is the
23 depreciation? What are they trying to depreciate?

24 And another thing, just a comment and I'm
25 trying to find this in the right words. If you know

1 that you're only needing something like 10.5 or 8
2 million dollars, why in the world do you come in here
3 and ask for 39 million dollars? If you know -- are
4 they just trying to deceive the public or what? When
5 you know that you're only going to get 8 or 10 million,
6 why in the world do you come up here and ask for 39?
7 That is something that needs to be straightened out
8 with the Public Service Commission. If somebody's
9 going to come in here for a rate increase and they know
10 how much you want, ask for how much you want. Don't
11 throw a 39 million or a 40 million or a 50 million
12 dollar price tag out there knowing that you might only
13 get 10 percent of it. If that's all you need is 10
14 percent of that 50 million, than ask for 10 percent.
15 Don't ask for 50 million. If you only need eight, then
16 ask for eight.

17 And that's my comment. And it doesn't
18 only affect the seniors in the city as the last -- they
19 testified before the last one. We're just asking you.
20 These big bonuses and these exorbitant bonuses that
21 people are getting -- why in the world are you allowing
22 it to happen on the back of the working people? If it
23 was a private industry, I could see it. This is a
24 public utility under an umbrella. All I can see is
25 this rate increase is strictly for the bonuses of the

1 CEOs of Laclede Gas. That's the only reason you're
2 wanting the rate increase. And that's my comments.

3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you, sir.

4 Commissioner Murray, any questions?

5 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: No questions. Thank
6 you.

7 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Gaw?

8 COMMISSIONER GAW: No. Thank you, Mr.
9 Patterson.

10 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Clayton?

11 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I don't have any
12 questions. Thank you, Mr. Patterson.

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Chairman?

14 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Mr. Patterson, real
15 quick, what was the total amount for the bonuses for
16 the top five people paid in '03 or '04?

17 MR. PATTERSON: In '04, it was over a half
18 a million dollars.

19 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Okay.

20 JUDGE DIPPELL: Any questions, Mr.
21 Dandino?

22 MR. DANDINO: No questions. Thank you,
23 Mr. Patterson.

24 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Pendergast?

25 MR. PENDERGAST: Yes. Hi, Mr. Patterson.

1 My name is Mike Pendergast. How are you today?

2 MR. PATTERSON: I'm doing good.

3 MR. PENDERGAST: Good. Have you read the
4 stipulation agreement for salaries the Commission
5 proposed?

6 MR. PATTERSON: No.

7 MR. PENDERGAST: So you haven't read the
8 specific terms of the settlement; is that correct?

9 MR. PATTERSON: That's correct.

10 MR. PENDERGAST: You know that's publicly
11 available?

12 MR. PATTERSON: That's where I got the
13 information on the bonuses.

14 MR. PENDERGAST: So you wouldn't be aware
15 of the fact that pursuant to that stipulation
16 agreement, any performance bonuses for Laclede
17 personnel and management have been excluded from any
18 rate recovery in this case, would you?

19 MR. PATTERSON: I'm sorry?

20 MR. PENDERGAST: That any bonuses paid to

21 --

22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Pendergast.

23 MR. PENDERGAST: Yes.

24 JUDGE DIPPELL: We don't really want to
25 cross examine Mr. Patterson, and if you want to put

1 that information into the record as evidence into the
2 record for the Commission to consider, than you can
3 certainly do that, but don't make a point --

4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Judge, as discussed
5 earlier, this is a public comment period. Mr.
6 Pendergast offering a public comment. He's a free
7 person like anybody else.

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: I agree. However, Mr.
9 Pendergast is the attorney in this matter, and I didn't
10 want him to take up our time here today putting in
11 evidence for the Commission to consider. I thought
12 that you should put that in and consider the form of
13 his question.

14 MR. PENDERGAST: And I respect that, your
15 Honor.

16 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Thank you.

17 MR. PENDERGAST: I was not trying to be
18 rude. All I'm trying to do is make sure the public
19 doesn't have a misconception of what's going on here
20 based on misinformation and a lack of knowledge of what
21 this settlement actually provides.

22 JUDGE DIPPELL: And I've been letting you
23 make your statements instead of asking questions the
24 whole time, so I will let you do that again, but try to
25 keep your tone in a normal tone.

1 MR. PENDERGAST: I certainly will. Thank
2 you. To the extent that any bonuses have been excluded
3 from any recovery of rates, does that satisfy your
4 concern on the bonuses, sir?

5 MR. PATTERSON: No.

6 MR. PENDERGAST: Are you aware of how
7 much money the Laclede Group and how much of its
8 profits derive from the unregulated sources that you
9 referenced in your testimony earlier?

10 MR. PATTERSON: Could you explain that to
11 me, that question?

12 MR. PENDERGAST: Are you aware that
13 Laclede Group has not only gas utility as one of its
14 businesses, but also unregulated businesses?

15 MR. PATTERSON: Laclede Group?

16 MR. PENDERGAST: Yes.

17 MR. PATTERSON: They have unregulated
18 companies?

19 MR. PENDERGAST: Yes. Are you aware of
20 that?

21 MR. PATTERSON: Yes, I am.

22 MR. PENDERGAST: Okay. And do you have
23 any idea of how much of their earnings come from those
24 unregulated companies versus regulated companies?

25 MR. PATTERSON: No. I do know that

1 Laclede made a 39 million profit.

2 MR. PENDERGAST: Do you know how much of
3 that came from its regulated customers versus its
4 unregulated?

5 MR. PATTERSON: I don't know -- I don't
6 understand the question. I don't understand the reason
7 behind the question.

8 MR. PENDERGAST: You made a comment
9 earlier that from your perspective, which we've already
10 established aren't only coming from regulated
11 customers, would be appropriate in an unregulated
12 environment. What I was asking is if you know what
13 portion of Laclede Group's earnings and operations are
14 associated with unregulated activities?

15 MR. PATTERSON: No. No.

16 MR. PENDERGAST: Thank you. I have no
17 further questions.

18 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Mr. Meyer?

19 MR. MEYER: No questions.

20 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.

21 MR. PATTERSON: Can I finish? Well, the
22 fact of whether its regulated or unregulated, Laclede
23 Gas is under that and that is the CEO of Laclede Gas.
24 He's not a representative of, I guess, unregulated
25 companies, as far as I know of. Is that true?

1 MR. PENDERGAST: No, that's not true.

2 MR. PATTERSON: He is in charge of the
3 unregulated? So his bonuses could have all come from
4 there?

5 MR. PENDERGAST: Can I comment?

6 JUDGE DIPPELL: Yes, please, Mr.
7 Pendergast, get started.

8 MR. PENDERGAST: Certainly none of it is
9 coming from our regulated customers, not designed as a
10 result of the settlement.

11 MR. PATTERSON: Are you saying Laclede Gas
12 CEO has not made one dime on a bonus on the regulated
13 company?

14 MR. PENDERGAST: I told you what I told
15 you, sir. A dime that is recovered on regulated
16 customers --

17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. I --

18 MR. PATTERSON: I still feel it's a shame
19 that a utility company can give a CEO \$156,000 in 2003.
20 In 2004, you gave him \$256,000. What is it going to be
21 in 2005? Can you answer me that?

22 JUDGE DIPPELL: Okay. Mr. Patterson,
23 let's go ahead and get your comments and then we'll
24 move on.

25 MR. PATTERSON: Well, he had a right to

1 ask me. I just figured I had a right to ask him. Is
2 that, is that wrong?

3 JUDGE DIPPELL: No.

4 MR. PATTERSON: I feel like out of the
5 whole people -- of everybody here today, I get to be
6 the lucky one. So what do you have a projected bonus
7 for him in 2005?

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: This really isn't the time
9 for questions and answers with the company. It's time
10 to take your comments and --

11 MR. PATTERSON: He volunteered comments
12 before, didn't he?

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: I was trying to allow you
14 a little leeway, and him a little, and everybody, but
15 I'm apparently losing control here, so I'm going to
16 take charge again and ask you if you have any further
17 comments.

18 MR. PATTERSON: I just hope the public
19 pays attention.

20 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Mr. Dandino,
21 did you have anything you needed to clarify?

22 MR. DANDINO: No questions. No.

23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you, Mr. Patterson.

24 MR. PATTERSON: Thank you.

25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Please raise your right

1 hand.

2 MS. KENNEL: I can't swear.

3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Could you affirm?

4 MS. LEANORA KENNEL,
5 of lawful age, being first duly affirmed to tell the
6 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
7 deposes and says on behalf of the Commission, as
8 follows:

9 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can you give us your name
10 and address?

11 MS. KENNEL: My name is Leanora Kennel, K-
12 E-N-N-E-L.

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can I get you to -- we're
14 getting a little feedback and I can hardly hear you.

15 MS. KENNEL: 6303 North Drive, Apartment
16 A, 63130.

17 MS. DIPPEL: And are you a Laclede Gas
18 Company customer?

19 MS. KENNEL: Yes, I am.

20 JUDGE DIPPELL: Please go ahead with you
21 testimony.

22 MS. KENNEL: I just got a card in the mail
23 and I was just wondering why the gas bill was going up?
24 I am a retiree. I am a part-time worker, but I'm
25 retired. I'm on a fixed income. I am 74 years old and

1 I might be leaving this job because my health is not as
2 good, and so I'm just working there to pay for my
3 medication. That's my comment.

4 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Commissioner
5 Murray, did you have any questions?

6 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: No, I don't. Thank
7 you.

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Gaw?

9 COMMISSIONER GAW: Just a clarification,
10 Ms. Kennel. Did you say you were retired and working?

11 MS. KENNEL: Three hours a day.

12 COMMISSIONER GAW: So you're trying to
13 work some additional hours?

14 MS. KENNEL: To cover my medication.

15 COMMISSIONER GAW: You want to tell me, if
16 you want to, about how much that runs a month, the
17 medication?

18 MS. KENNEL: I don't know.

19 COMMISSIONER GAW: If you have a ballpark?

20 MS. KENNEL: I'd guess about three
21 hundred.

22 COMMISSIONER GAW: About three hundred
23 dollars?

24 MS. KENNEL: Yes.

25 COMMISSIONER GAW: Do you know what your

1 heating bill runs, generally?

2 MS. KENNEL: Around 60, 70, 75 dollars.

3 COMMISSIONER GAW: Is that a budget bill?

4 MS. KENNEL: My budget bill is 65.

5 COMMISSIONER GAW: Yes, ma'am. Thank you
6 very much.

7 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Clayton, any
8 questions?

9 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I have no
10 questions. I would just urge you, ma'am, if you have
11 additional questions, we have staff here to handle any
12 of those questions.

13 MS. KENNEL: Thank you.

14 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Chairman?

15 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: I have no questions.
16 Thank you.

17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you.

18 MS. WILLIE MAE DAVIS,
19 of lawful age, being first duly sworn to tell the
20 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
21 deposes and says on behalf of the Commission, as
22 follows:

23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can you please state your
24 name and give us your address?

25 MS. DAVIS: I'm Willie Mae Davis. I've

1 lived at 6644 Thurston. And I want to know why this
2 gas bill is going up and the other question I have,
3 when they estimate your bill --

4 JUDGE DIPPELL: Can you speak up just a
5 little bit?

6 MS. DAVIS: My meter is on the outside of
7 my house and I was just wondering why they have to
8 estimate my bill?

9 JUDGE DIPPELL: Your meter's on the
10 outside and you're wondering why they have to estimate
11 it?

12 MS. DAVIS: Well, yeah. I mean why can't
13 they go around and do that?

14 JUDGE DIPPELL: I can't answer your
15 question, but Mr. Pendergast or the people with Mr.
16 Pendergast would be happy to answer those questions for
17 you, I know, after this. If you have any further
18 questions then you might want to talk to our staff and
19 they can explain the way those billing issues work.

20 MS. DAVIS: Well, they only estimate the
21 bill higher. It'll never be lower. It'll always be
22 higher and I was just wondering instead of just read it
23 --

24 JUDGE DIPPELL: If you have any complaints
25 about it or think you've been billed incorrectly, for

1 instance, then we want you to contact our consumer
2 service representative. We have some staff, somebody
3 back there, raise your hand -- there we go. And
4 they'll give you a card and you can contact someone.
5 Do you have any other comments about the rate increase?

6 MS. DAVIS: Yeah. What is the increase
7 for? Are things going on up or --

8 JUDGE DIPPELL: The proposal in front of
9 the Commission is the settlement and there are a lot of
10 things in that settlement agreement. I can't list them
11 all, but there is a handout in the back that explains
12 most of them. Or someone from either staff, the Public
13 Council or from Mr. Pendergast will be happy to explain
14 them in more detail. Okay.

15 MS. DAVIS: Thank you.

16 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Murray, any
17 questions?

18 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: No questions. Thank
19 you.

20 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Gaw?

21 COMMISSIONER GAW: Thank you for coming,
22 Ms. Davis.

23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Clayton?

24 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I've said it
25 several times, but feel free to contact our staff if

1 you have additional questions. They've raised their
2 hands, so you know where they are.

3 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Thank you, Mrs. Davis.
4 Thank you for coming.

5 MR. PETE WILLIAMS,
6 of lawful age, being first duly sworn to tell the
7 truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth,
8 deposes and says on behalf of the Commission, as
9 follows:

10 MR. WILLIAMS: Good afternoon.

11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Could I --

12 MR. WILLIAMS: My name is Pete Williams
13 and I solemnly swear to tell the truth. I don't know
14 no other way to go.

15 JUDGE DIPPELL: All right. Can you give
16 us your address, sir?

17 MR. WILLIAMS: 1824 Santa Delorah Walk.
18 S-A-N-T-A, CAPITAL D, E-L-O-R-A-H, W-A-L-K, Walk.

19 I would like to know -- I went from \$62 in
20 April. In April, I had a \$62 budget, and now it went
21 from \$62 to \$80, an \$18 increase. I'm retired, Social
22 Security -- that's all I have coming in and I'm a
23 diabetic, also. I go up to the Veteran Hospital. I'm
24 a Veteran. And also, I pay \$7 for prescriptions. What
25 gives? I pay \$7 for each prescription if I get three

1 months, then they charge you \$21. It's not just for
2 one prescription. My doctor can't prescribe 90 day
3 prescription. I don't pay \$7. I pay \$21 for that same
4 prescription, and that's all the income that I have
5 coming in. I want to know how I go from \$62 to \$80.
6 That's \$18 increase. I had one increase in January to
7 \$62. Now, I have this one. I want to know how this
8 come about.

9 You know, when a person's on a fixed
10 income once a month. I have no extra money. The job
11 that I worked for, when I'd been there for only 10
12 years, so I didn't have no vested time. Then I wonder
13 why it keeps going up on the poor person. Everything
14 go up except our increase once a year from the federal
15 government. They don't have no rules and regulation, I
16 don't guess. They increase the gas for your
17 automobile.

18 That's \$18 increase. Mine hasn't
19 increased at all, my percent. How do you all expect us
20 to do as poor people? That's what I would like to
21 know. It's not just me. It's other people in my
22 congregation do the same thing. I'm not just here for
23 me. I'm here for them, also. You've got to have some
24 cut-offs up here somewhere. You all sit and look. My
25 youngest child is 34 and my oldest child is 44. You

1 never know when the dollar's going to hit you, but yet
2 we can still sit and be judgmental over what we think a
3 person should pay to fatten your pocket and our pocket
4 never is. And I pray that you look at it. Because
5 it's bad to meet a person when you're up and look down
6 on them. But what happens when you have to come down?
7 Then you might consider then when it happen to come
8 home to your mother or your father but what would you
9 do now? We got to come to that point. You don't take
10 nothing away from here.

11 You ever saw a big Brink's truck buried in
12 a graveyard? Naked. You come into this world and
13 naked you will leave it. It don't matter what you get.
14 Pay attention because you're young and healthy and you
15 got the best of everything. Think of those who don't
16 have enough. That's all that I have to say.

17 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you, sir.

18 Commissioner Murray, any questions?

19 COMMISSIONER MURRAY: No. But we've heard
20 a lot of people's problems today and I wish that we had
21 the ability to solve them and I appreciate you sharing
22 your problems with us. Thanks for being here.

23 JUDGE DIPPELL: Commissioner Gaw?

24 COMMISSIONER GAW: Mr. Williams, did I
25 hear you say that you're a Veteran? I want to thank

1 you for your service to our country. I want to say to
2 you that we shouldn't be here talking about this
3 because it shouldn't be happening in this country and
4 we shouldn't be having to deal with it, worrying about
5 whether somebody's going to freeze to death this winter
6 or worrying about whether or not they're going to have
7 enough money to pay for their prescription drugs.

8 We shouldn't have to be worried about that
9 and I want to say this to you, sir: If there's anybody
10 looking up to somebody, it's me looking up to you.
11 You, you have and if there's anything that registered
12 with me is this idea that you are sent somewhere to
13 serve. You're sent somewhere to serve and that means
14 that you look up to the ones that serve. I hope, I
15 hope -- and it's awful easy to get caught up in things.
16 It's awful easy, but I hope that when that happens to
17 me, somebody like you will come in and make sure that
18 doesn't happen much longer.

19 I guess I'll ask you this: Is there
20 anything that you see that really stands out to you in
21 regard to what some of the people you know in the
22 church and some of the others that would be the most
23 helpful in regards to dealing with paying for the
24 utility bills this winter? Is there anything that
25 stands out to you that you see that is working, that

1 makes sense, that we ought to be doing more of?

2 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, I'll say this. When
3 you in the service -- I was in the service. You heard
4 of the things being thin between love and hate.

5 COMMISSIONER GAW: Yes, sir.

6 MR. WILLIAMS: But when we was in the
7 service and I was overseas, best friends in the world.
8 But do you know the only thing separated us was a body
9 of water. When we crossed back over that body of
10 water, my white friend, best in the world, he got to go
11 his way and I got to go mine. Then we not equals any
12 longer. We're not equals any longer. The only country
13 in the world we have race. They ask me what my race.
14 I say I'm American and you say, "No, you a black
15 American." No, I'm not.

16 I am American because I was on that
17 battlefield risking my life, but yet still when I came
18 home, I went to eat me a bowl of chili at Thomas
19 Restaurant down on Tucker. A bowl of chili they
20 throwed to me and I throwed it back at them. Don't
21 tell me. We got a lot of cleaning up to do. We spend
22 money as many as a dollar -- give it to someone that
23 never help, no way. But yet and still, we got poor and
24 hungry veterans walking this street, don't know what
25 today or tomorrow going to bring. It's pitiful and I'm

1 not just talking about race. I'm talking about human
2 race. This is what we got to learn to do -- to think
3 of a human race.

4 What happens to your mother, your father,
5 your children? How would you feel? That's all I'm
6 asking. How would you feel? It don't hurt until you
7 come home, but when it come home and you say why
8 somebody have pity on me. But what did you do when you
9 was in the position to help someone? Did you? That's
10 all I'm asking. And I thank you for your time. Thank
11 you for your time. It'll come back. That's all I can
12 tell you. It's sure to come back. Will you be able to
13 stand when it come back to you? That's what I'm asking
14 you.

15 I'm not angry, but I'm angry because of
16 how the poor people suffer. I'm not talking about
17 those that got. They don't have no problems but you
18 know, we've been through a lot of things. We can have
19 a revolution in this country. It can be the poor
20 against the rich. Then where do you stand? It's going
21 to be all poor people. They stand united together one
22 day. Then where you going to hide at? There be no
23 hiding. So thank you for letting me speak. I had to
24 say what I had to say.

25 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you for your time.

1 MR. WILLIAMS: Any questions for me?

2 JUDGE DIPPELL: Any questions,
3 Commissioner Clayton?

4 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: I don't know if I
5 should --

6 MR. WILLIAMS: I did my time.

7 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Mr. Williams, have
8 you ever run for office before?

9 MR. WILLIAMS: No, I haven't.

10 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: Do you want to?

11 MR. WILLIAMS: I should because they need
12 help and I'm not afraid to speak.

13 COMMISSIONER CLAYTON: You're not afraid
14 to speak and your passion would be a great help, I
15 think, in Jefferson City or elsewhere.

16 MR. WILLIAMS: Well, we need help right
17 here in this city. We need someone down there to sit
18 on the board with them that have, when these things
19 come up, that have compassion, not just to want to
20 serve. I wouldn't want to serve. I just would want to
21 be able to speak, to let you know, hey, let's think
22 about not just what we pay and what we get but think
23 our compassion on the people that don't have. That's
24 what we have to learn to do in this life. Otherwise,
25 what is a profit a man that gained the whole world and

1 lose his own soul. You ain't prospering nothing.
2 Thank you.

3 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Chairman?

4 CHAIRMAN DAVIS: Thank you, Mr. Williams.

5 MR. WILLIAMS: Okay. I had to come and
6 say what I had to say.

7 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Dandino?

8 MR. DANDINO: Thank you.

9 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Pendergast?

10 MR. PENDERGAST: No. Thank you.

11 JUDGE DIPPELL: Mr. Meyer?

12 MR. MEYER: No.

13 JUDGE DIPPELL: Thank you. Thank you,
14 sir.

15 That was the last witness I had on the
16 sheet. Was there anyone else that didn't sign up that
17 would like to testify? All right then. I don't see
18 anyone else so we will conclude this hearing. I
19 appreciate everyone coming.

20 (Thereupon, the hearing was adjourned.)
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