

my pitch this afternoon is to reject the committee amendments, do not adopt Senator DeCamp's amendment which will soon be coming up, and then subsequently adopt Senator Schmit's amendment which is AM2455. I think it's in your bill books, maybe it was just placed there recently. The other amendment by Senator DeCamp says that you have to have a petition drive, in effect, before local rates are supervised by the Public Service Commission. I don't think that's the way to go although Senator Jackie Smith does have an amendment which reduces the percentage of people that have to complain about the rates before the Public Service Commission is taken into it, but I don't think that cures the problem. I think the best proposal is as Senator Schmit says, reject the committee amendments, reject Senator DeCamp's amendment, and then go with Senator Schmit's amendment.

PRESIDENT: We're discussing the committee amendments. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, simply to say I also agree the committee amendments should not be adopted, and I'm going to be voting against them, and then I'll be offering another amendment at this time.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: I guess I, too, Mr. President and the body, I have to speak and ask you to reject those committee amendments. I, too, truly feel sorry for the rest of the body that has not had the opportunity to work and to sit in on the many, many hours of committee hearings that some of we have in Public Works. I have great reservations about this. I am concerned about the local service where there is not competition. I've worked very carefully with my own, which was my original telephone company, Hamilton County Telephone Service, and I guess they see it that, Arlene, it's obvious through technology and so on, we cannot probably avoid deregulation. I know that the bottom line is to the public, the Legislature raised my telephone rates, but you have to think of it in this vein too. If the companies are not allowed to be competitive on the long distance service or to adjust their rates to the demand and I think that it's been in my mind shown that long distance service is still priced about a third too high, that if we don't allow these same companies to adjust their long