

a proponent of business, I continue to be a proponent of business, and I shall argue for that kind of return as long as I am on this floor, but I think that you will see, if you will listen carefully, and I would encourage everyone who is not in the Chamber to come to the Chamber or to listen to the debate and to listen carefully because this is one of the most important bills you are going to hear this afternoon, or you will hear this session. I want to point also that if you have questions about this bill, do not hesitate to speak to myself or to the staff because you will certainly be questioned by your constituents I can assure you. I have been here long enough to have introduced bills which have increased the cost of services to my constituents. Without exception they have not been at all bashful about asking me to explain those increases. That is their right and it is my responsibility and I would hope that those of you who vote on this bill today will satisfy yourself in your own mind and in your own conscience that you are voting for what is best for the people of the State of Nebraska. That is all I ask of you. If you do that, I can ask no more. And I want to point out also that we need to recognize that there are some concerns here and there is going to be some people who will say that if we do not provide for instant deregulation as proposed by Senator DeCamp, that businesses will suffer mightily and that they will not be able to compete and that it may in fact cause a loss of jobs, et cetera, to the State of Nebraska. I just ask you to review your own history. Ask yourself if these facts are not true. Number one, Nebraska has excellent telephone service today. Number two, we have good access to telephone service throughout the United States and throughout the world. Number three, rates have been reasonable for the most part and I think will continue to be so with Public Service supervision where competition does not exist and without Public Service supervision where competition does exist. But I want to point out that we have in the past, through the Public Service Commission, provided a reasonable and a fair rate of return to the telephone industry. I do not think that there is much argument with that. There are some other arguments which will be presented and very ably so by proponents of Senator DeCamp's amendment. I do not need to argue for those because he can handle that himself, but I would suggest that at this time you listen again very carefully because this is one of the most dramatic bills you will vote upon this session and you certainly need to be informed. Thank you