

limited amount of time is try to go through the bill piece by piece and deal with the manner and method in which it does it. Let me simply say in advance that with respect to some of the objections raised by Senator Landis, the very essence of the bill is a declaration of policy and then a mechanical implementing of that policy, and that policy is to make the best telecommunications service available for all Nebraskans under the most competitive system which is the world we have to face up to and live in for the future and to begin it now, to lay in place the cornerstones for that policy now. And I believe seriously, if you will read the bill, if you will understand the bill, you will realize that this is inevitable, that you have to do this, essentially these things, if you are going to have a decent telecommunications system and industry in this state. Of course, the first part of the bill simply provides that the multitude of definitions, and let me simplify that by saying we're talking about two things. The line that is going into your home that provides you your telephone service, the local dial service, that's the fixed one if you want to use that term. Everything else becomes kind of an optional type thing, whether it be long distance, whether it be the variety of different services available, but basically the basic local exchange rate is the flat monthly charge for that one line into your home or two, if you happen to have more than one phone, but the dial tone access method, and then that's where we start out. Now, Senator Lamb raised the question about deregulation and moving too fast and how he didn't know how his area would be affected and I'm throwing this in a little early. Senator Lamb has five telephone districts in his...or five telephone companies in his district. Believe it or not, Senator Lamb, believe it or not, they're all operating under this bill already for all practical purposes. That's right. All your companies already have this bill. All your companies already have this law. You and Senator Schmit voted for it several years ago back when you deregulated one particular aspect, those under 5,000. So that already exists. How does it exist? Fortunately for you and Senator Schmit's foresight years ago, and your assistance in getting the first pieces of deregulation laid in place back then. Now we're trying to follow up on your wisdom and genius that was provided to us back in those days and complete the system. What do we do with the bill? The heart of the bill is deregulation of the rate structure of telephones. That's the simple truth, no secrets about it. There are a variety of reasons and you've