

this actual economic cost, the undefined term, you can also include some overhead costs but they don't define that basic term, and it seems to me that if you're talking about maintaining universal service...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...and at the same time allow a pricing scheme to have actual economic cost assessed against a user or a rate for a user, and that cost can be as high as it costs to get that line to that rural farm, then aren't you really undermining the goal of universal service? Now listen, I could be wrong. I might have my facts wrong on that. However, even if I do, there is no well-thought-out policy statement in this bill that says what we're to measure the guidelines against. What is the policy? In that internal contradiction inside the bill, what way is the state supposed to jump, because we don't have a policy guideline to tell us which way to jump. All we have is the telephone industry sitting down and making agreements among themselves as to what they can live with.

PRESIDENT: Your time is expiring.

SENATOR LANDIS: That is not necessarily what the public can live with or should have to live with. I have difficulties with the DeCamp amendment and intend to oppose it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I have to rise in opposition to Senator DeCamp's amendment and to try to explain as nearly as I understand it what this Legislature will do if we pass LB 835. Senator DeCamp was accurate when he said it is impossible to explain in a few minutes the complexities of this bill. So I will not try to get into the finite details. I will not go through the bill at this time section by section because I do not think that is what this body actually needs. I think that what you need are broad general areas that define what in my opinion the bill will do and why the DeCamp amendment should not be adopted. I'd have to say that if we were to pass the DeCamp amendment it would be giving unlimited license to the telephone companies to increase rates. If you remember my discussion of the committee amendment, you'll remember that I talked about the