

there are competitive forces whether they be in the form of IBM, MCI, all of these, they are out there and you had better face up to dealing with it. One more year or two more years of delay is only going to hurt, only going to hurt, Senator Schmit, the rural areas and hurt them bad. It is time to face up to it. The time is now. The bill is 835. I ask you not to return it to committee.

PRESIDENT: Senator Harris, do you wish to speak on this motion?

SENATOR HARRIS: Yes. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I rise as a battered member of the Public Works Commission (sic) and protest this motion. I do not plan to support it. And using Senator Schmit's analogy a few minutes ago about the steer in the ring, I know a lot about that business myself and one of the most foolish things you can do is take a one-eyed steer that has got a little bad leg to the auction barn and then take him back home. I want this bill to stand or fall on its own today and I don't want to see it again this year under any circumstances. Let's fight it out right here and indefinitely postpone it, go with it. You know, I was asked by a report a couple of days ago, well, which way am I leaning? I am leaning toward the people. I have my own amendment that I am going to support and it is not my personal one, but I am watching all those that come by and everybody has got to do the same thing, try to keep track of it. We do this all the time. Please don't send this bill back. Let's get it taken care of. It is a big issue, I agree with Senator DeCamp. Let's get rid of this steer.

PRESIDENT: All right, Senator Abboud, do you wish to speak on this motion?

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President and colleagues, I would like to start by saying that the Public Works Committee has put in a phenomenal amount of time on this particular piece of legislation. They have spent hours debating this in committee as well as listening to representatives from the telephone industry. And with that beginning, I would like, Mr. President, to know if Senator Schmit would yield for a question.

PRESIDENT: I think he will.