

the motion to rerefer.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. The call of the house is raised. Do you have another motion, another amendment to the DeCamp amendment?

CLERK: Yes, sir, I do have other amendments. Mr. President, Senator DeCamp's amendment 2536 is still pending. The next amendment I have to that is by Senator Hefner. (Senator Hefner's amendment appears on page 1689 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner. May we have order in the Chamber so we can hear the speaker, please. (Gavel.) Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I offer this amendment in good faith. I passed it out a little while ago. It is amendment 2711. And this is an amendment to DeCamp's amendment as amended by Senator Schmit's amendment. This reduces the 10 percent of the signatures to 5 percent the number of subscribers necessary to petition for a hearing for telephone companies of less than 5,000 subscribers. I just feel that 10 percent of the signatures of those subscribers is too hard to get. I feel that 5 percent is more reasonable. The proponents of this bill have said that they would support this amendment and so I am offering this to you in good faith and hope that you will be able to support it.

PRESIDENT: We are talking now on the Hefner amendment. Senator Landis. Senator Fappas. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, again I want to rise very briefly. I oppose Senator Hefner's amendment because it does exactly what I have said you were going to attempt to do all day long. You are going to try to sweeten the pill until it is palatable. Senator Hefner's amendment stretches out by 30 days that period of time that is allowable, but I want to point out that you have tiptoed around the guts of the issue and that is that there is absolutely no price protection for the ratepayer in this bill. There is no protection. You have deregulated. You have provided a monopoly in the competitive area for service, for a service area, and there is no competition whatsoever insofar as rates are concerned. Now, if you want to be responsible for