

you go back to square one or you go ahead with legislation. And I would accuse Senator Landis, who I know is intelligent, of being intellectually dishonest on this particular issue and the whole issue of telephones. I said the opposition of Sprint is because you will see lower rates and that is what they don't want. Now, I am going to get into a simple explanation of what the whole issue is all about. If somebody is paying a certain amount, let's say, \$25 to provide a certain service, let's say telephone service, and they are receiving back another amount, let's say \$15, then they are losing money and that is precisely the situation today. That is the whole issue of deregulation and competition. Now, if they are losing \$10 per month on a customer, on every customer, they have to make the money up somewhere. How do they make up the money? They charge artificially high rates somewhere else. And that is exactly what is occurring. Very artificially high rates on other services, long distance, et cetera. Now, who wants to keep artificially high rates? Some of the new entrants. Sprint, for example. If they can keep an artificially high rate and a Sprint does nothing more than get in the Omaha-Lincoln traffic, instead of providing rural service or doing all the other things, then they can skim incredible profits because through a regulatory scheme you have got artificially high rates so that you can subsidize something else that they are not providing. They have no obligation to provide any of these others. Our own companies, the ones that represent the capital investment of hundreds of millions, maybe billions, in Nebraska, that is who is being hurt. Now, what we are doing, as I have stated and made no secret of it, we are deregulating. We are deregulating in a phase manner the telephone, telecommunications industry in this state. Why? Because as it is regulated now and as the Public Service Commission functions, it has become a shambles and it is doomed to blow up very soon unless something is done. How could it blow up? You get enough bypass occurring, which is already going on, and you are going to have a wounded Bell company with not enough customers to keep subsidizing artificially that homeowner that they are paying 25 to do and only receiving 15 back. So, yes, Senator Landis, you have talked eloquently on the bill and, therefore, I know you know the real picture. You know, for example, that certain rates are going to go down and certain rates are going to go up. What is going to happen in a deregulated economy is that you are going to get to a situation where the cost of service is