

about the area of long distance and Senator DeCamp refers to how all the companies except one have agreed upon this bill. I would like to call your attention to something and I am slow to anger and I am quick to cool off, but I have reached the point where I think there needs to be something said. The Public Works Committee took the results of a study and drafted a bill, LB 1119. That bill was drafted as the result of an expensive study paid for by the industry. Prior to the time that that study was even in my hands, I believe LB 835 was drafted, at least it was very nearly an instantaneous occasion. LB 835 was tossed on my desk the opening day of the session. I refused to sign the bill. The bill now rests before you. It came before the committee. As has been explained, the industry has been on all sides of it. Senator DeCamp says, isn't it strange that all but one company now agrees? We all know how you get that done, don't you? You put enough in the pot until everyone agrees. You put enough in the pot until everyone has what they think they need to survive on and that is I guess an agreement. Now, I would suggest I suppose a method whereby the one company which Senator DeCamp refers to and does not agree could be prevailed upon to agree also, if we could sweeten it possibly to that extent. We have almost reached a point I think where it can be done and I think we recognize why, Senator DeCamp and I do, at least. The one question you have not answered is who puts the ante in the pot? And we all know who does that, the constituent puts that, the customer puts the ante in the pot and it is going to be divided up. It is going to be divided up based upon where you are, who you are, what you are and a few other little areas. But you are totally leaving that outside the jurisdiction of the Public Service Commission. I would like to ask a question and I'm going to answer it, there isn't any...there isn't any state that has done what is proposed to be done under LB 835, not one. Several states have proposed it, none have adopted it. I am in favor of deregulation. I am not in favor of territorial protection on the one hand and total flexibility in rates on the other and that is what you do with LE 835. Senator Lamb's amendment calls a bluff. We have been told we want to be allowed to adjust rates to meet competition. Fine. I do not know, I do not believe there has ever been any request for a rate reduction by a major long distance carrier to meet the competition proposed by the newcomers in the market. It is kind of interesting that today I stand here accused of defending an interloper and a year ago Senator