

step further, though. It said let's deregulate the local rates. So, for example, if we had a telephone service, let's just take this room. Each one of us have a telephone. And if we are going to...if we have one telephone service, and that...let's assume Senator Lamb has a telephone service. And Senator Lamb says, well, I want to be the only one in this room to have phone service. And Senator Hefner says, well, I'd like to have the same service also. But there is an agreement among the body here that they say, well, we can have cheaper rates if only one person is having a phone service to connect all 50 phones or 49 phones in this room. Now considering there is only one group that is servicing the phones in this room, you would think it would be reasonable that we would have a committee that would decide what a reasonable rate would be since there would be no competition. Now my belief is that you have regulation at the long distance level. You have Sprint, you have MCI, you have AT&T, you have a few other companies that are jumping into it as well, and you do have competition at the long distance level. You have long distance at the federal level. So maybe we should have long distance in this state deregulated. But when we start talking about the local level, we are talking about a situation where a monopoly exists. We are talking about no competition. If I'm upset at Northwestern Bell, back in Ralston, and I say, well, I don't like your service, there is not a whole heck of a lot that I can do about that situation. I can't go around and, say, call up AT&T and tell me...ask them to connect me with the phones. It just won't happen. So we've allowed these local companies to set up a monopoly situation. But, at the same token, we say be reasonable about it, only charge what you need to make a good profit. Now in the bill...or I should say in Jackie Smith's amendment, which is now a part of the DeCamp amendment, which hopefully, or which may be adopted, we tell the phone companies that they can make a 20 percent increase in what they are charging right now. Now I don't know how many farmers in this district or how many farmers in the state are making a 20 percent increase in their profit next year. I don't know how many businessmen in this state are making a 20 percent increase in their profit. Quite frankly, I don't know anybody in the state that is making a 20 percent increase in the profit that they are going to be able to charge their consumers. But yet we are debating whether...how much we should allow them to do it. I view this 20 percent as a ceiling. I view it as a situation that each one of those phone companies has