

a responsibility. Northwestern Bell has a responsibility to the stockholders first, and to the consumers second. Unfortunately, that is what their requirements are. AT&T is in the same situation. LT&T is in the same situation. If those directors don't make a profit for the stockholders, they are going to be looking for another job.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR ABBOD: Now they have to balance that with keeping the consumers, giving them good service, providing reasonable rates. But that balance is provided by the Public Service Commission who says this is a fair profit, you can make an 8 percent increase in your profit, or a 10 percent increase, or a 14 percent increase, whatever. Now what we are deciding today is how much profit these companies are going to be making. It can either be 10 percent, or it can be 20 percent. I don't think 10 percent is out of line. For that reason I'll support Senator Lamb's amendment to say 10 percent is enough, 10 percent is more than adequate, and 20 percent is too much. With that, I'm going to be voting for both of the amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: I call the question.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Smith, you are the only light on. Is that all right with you to call...then we do not need to go through the exercise. I would ask Senator Lamb to close. Thank you very much, Senator Marsh.

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I think a significant statement was made which...in which Senator DeCamp said that this 10 percent amendment guts the bill.

PRESIDENT: (Gavel.)

SENATOR LAMB: Thank you. Senator DeCamp said it guts the bill. You know I don't see that at all. But that is a significant statement because evidently if the charges cannot increase more than 10 percent, and probably on the order of 20 percent, then that guts the bill. So those of you who are thinking about voting for this bill with the 20 percent in it, I think that indicates pretty clearly that