

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, and members of the body, I've never been one to use the delaying tactics that are available to all of us who understand it to stop a bill. I do not choose to do that. I choose to point out to you the error of what I believe is a very serious mistake if you adopt the DeCamp amendment. I know that Senator DeCamp...I'm sure Senator DeCamp is sincere. I am sure those who support the bill are sincere. I am sure that there will be ample opportunity for you to explain that sincerity to the constituents you serve and the reasons why you supported the DeCamp proposal. But I'm going to tell you, as I said earlier, the DeCamp bill does not do that which you want it to do, does not do that which you can justify. There will come a time when you will realize that. The bill should not have been on the floor had it not been for some of the things that happened from time to time, but it is here. I accept that reality. I accept the reality of the various amendments. If the bill should advance, which I think would be a mistake, I will offer 1119 as an amendment on the floor on Select File. I would ask you at this time, I will make no effort to stall the bill. We will withdraw...there is a kill motion which has been withdrawn. I'm going to ask you this, before you vote on this bill ask yourself to whom your responsibility is the greater, your constituency or the industry which serves that constituency. I would ask you also is the industry not healthy? Has the industry not earned a reasonable rate of return upon their investment? Do they have difficulty in meeting competition on long distance rates? If so, there are remedies available under 1119. Is there going to be competition for local rates? Is there going to be a monopoly on local territory? The answer is no and yes. Do you think you can live with that? I think not. I think the time has come, ladies and gentlemen, to bring the bill to a vote. I ask you to oppose the adoption of the DeCamp amendment, and I ask you based upon long, lengthy debate, long, lengthy discussions with the industry, with the Public Service Commission, and with constituencies. I do not fault the industry, I commend them. They have worked long and hard and they deserve acknowledgement for that. But I would suggest that the bill before you, in the form of the DeCamp amendment, is not the way to go. And I would suggest that it is a mistake to adopt it. I ask you to oppose it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud.