

under the DeCamp amendment. I support this amendment wholeheartedly, not only because of what it contains, but also because it is going to I think resolve this issue. Otherwise we will be forced to submit a number of other amendments which would modify the DeCamp amendment in some other way. A number of those amendments have been prepared. We are prepared to go long and late on those. I would suggest that this amendment will do what we are striving to do. We are allowing competition where technology has made that competition feasible. It also allows the Public Service Commission to be involved in those areas where the public needs that representation. I hope you would adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Abboud.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I also rise in support of the amendment offered by Senator Schmit. It is not a perfect amendment by any means. There is some areas in the particular amendment that I do have some problems with, but I think the most striking thing about the DeCamp amendment which is lacking is the fact that he allows for...does not provide for any sort of regulation of monopoly telephone systems in the State of Nebraska. I feel that this is probably the most important part of the bill because it flies in the face of what the ratepayers and consumers of the telephone, is in their best interest. If you don't have some sort of regulation over monopoly, then what you are going to have is an automatic increase, at least according to the amendment an automatic 10 percent increase in the amount of revenues that are going to be provided to that telephone company. Whether that company needs that 10 percent or not, you are going to have it because there will be no regulation for it. Now the other side just hasn't been all that open to compromise. I mean I think everyone in this room would like to come to some sort of consensus on deregulation of long distance telephone systems in the State of Nebraska but there has not been that attempt. There is a roadblock there where they say that they don't want any sort of regulation for the local service. With that I see the only option that is available to this body, the only legitimate option that is available to us is the Schmit amendment. Now what it provides for is that there will be no automatic rate increase which I feel is important because you will have the Public Service Commission determining whether that rate increase is, in fact, justified. And, more importantly to the telephone company's best interest would be that there will be an increased staffing so that the Public Service Commission