

provide service between Anselmo and wherever, the 50 miles, it costs them a buck and a half and they can only charge a buck. But they have no obligation to provide service in the state to every single person. They have the ability to withdraw any time they want. So what do they do? They come into the one area, Omaha and Lincoln, where it only costs 30, or 40, or 50 cents to provide that service and then they get the same dollar. With AT&T or Bell or whoever, those that have to be there, they take the profits from the Omaha and Lincoln traffic and have to subsidize the others. Now, Senator Schmit, I'm going to answer your question, your question about what it is going to do to the rates in Neligh and O'Neill? The answer is, whether your bill passes, whether my bill passes, whether you pass no bill, the facts of life, your telephone rates at the local level are going to go up to meet the cost of service.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: And you can lie to each other and you can pretend to the consumer that those aren't the facts, they are the facts, therefore, try to get it done in the way that you get the most competition and ultimately end up with the best service at the lowest cost, and anybody that tells you that somehow they are going to spend another 400,000 at the regulatory commission to keep your rates from ever going up, they are hustling you. Now I may get beat in the election, as Mr. Monahan or whoever wants, and as some are warning, but the facts are I am telling you the truth. The truth is it is costing more than a lot of people are getting to provide certain service and something is going to have to break, and so you had better come up with a system, a system that brings in competition, and that allows the lowest increase in rates. I get particularly frustrated when I listen to Senator Abboud because he is truly, and he is a nice guy, he is brilliant, he is a lawyer, but he has been spouting nonsense.

PRESIDENT: Your time is expiring.

SENATOR DECAMP: For example, he keeps talking about 10 percent profit, 20 percent profit, hell, we aren't talking about profit. We are talking about a bill that tries to get you to the cost of providing the service. Profit isn't even involved in the bill at this point.

PRESIDENT: Your time is expiring.