

the juiciest and the most plump plum of the entire division. And it is also our responsibility, as state legislators, not to enrich unjustly any particular entity at the expense of the taxpayer. We have tried very zealously to guard that kind of situation over the years. Therefore, I would hope that you would adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I'm going to prove, I think, what I've been claiming here, which is that Sprint is writing amendments and influencing my good friend, Senator Schmit, maybe to his disadvantage. Here's the proof. The amendment purports to allow any telephone company intralata, that means within a lata, Nebraska has three lata, so you know when you get talking to your constituents that is three areas. The amendment would purport, under state law, to allow any telephone company to offer to the state, telephone service at the most competitive rate, or any rate they wanted, long distance service. We're talking about long distance. Now listen to this part. Federal law, under the federal court order ordering deregulation, prevents AT&T from offering this identical service for another two years. Therefore, the only ones who it would apply to would just happen to be Sprint. But here's the rest of the story. Believe it or not, I could care less. You want to know why? Because when I was trying to force competition into the state, in working with the feds on the antitrust part, I discovered, much to my surprise, that some brilliant person in this state had already gotten Nebraska state government, believe it or not, the absolute best rates that anybody's ever going to get on telephone service. I don't know how long ago it was done. I don't know if it was done by the Kerrey administration accidentally, or the Thone administration intentionally, but somebody got her done. And it doesn't matter if you give Sprint or anybody else the right, nobody is going to be able to offer lower rates than we've got now. Many people have attempted, but we have already got a contract with something called NETCOM at about 17 cents per minute, 17 cents a minute whether you want to call Omaha, or whether you want to call San Francisco, or New York. We've got, literally, the best deal going. Why was I trying to check it out and going to try to do it? I was going to try to rub it in LT&T's nose and bypass them when they were obstructing last year. And so I was going to introduce legislation to bypass and I discovered somebody, without ever getting praised from the state or some DAS person, I assume, wouldn't it be DAS that does that stuff, some one of them,