

available that we ought to be encouraging, I think, looking at some other system. As the Appropriations Committee tussles with the budgetary problems, as Senator Vard Johnson and his awesome responsibility as Chairman of Revenue, who suddenly becomes really concerned about this tremendous load he bears, trying to find new sources of revenue, let me suggest if you can reduce your expenditure, and I learned that a long time ago in the farming business, if you can reduce your expenditures you don't need to raise so much revenue. All the amendment does, all the amendment does is that we say you should look at something else. NPPD, for example, is already operating in this kind of a capacity. We have found other entities. I could name some. I believe I was told, but I won't name them on the floor because it would be an embarrassment to some of those very fine corporate citizens of Omaha if I noted, on the floor here, that they had gone around their local telephone company. But they have done so. Why then should not the State of Nebraska take a look at it? Not saying, Senator Jack DeCamp, that we mandate it. I'm saying take a look at it. If an industry in Omaha or in Lincoln has found it profitable to set up their own system, certainly they are not as large as is the State of Nebraska, and should not the State of Nebraska at least look at it? Again, we have reached that magical point. Competition is the rule of the game. It used to be the law of the jungle, but suddenly it has become great...it has become the goal. And there are some fine legislators here who have endorsed it, 28 of them in the previous vote, endorsed that competition factor. Now do the same 28, plus perhaps the 16 others who voted against my...with my amendment, do they want to say let's really look at competition and see if out there, in the woodwork, there is not something better,, something more economical that we could embrace and thereby reduce the total tax burden of the State of Nebraska and, at the same time, provide good, efficient service?

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: It will be a most interesting kind of a vote. As I said earlier, and I ask for a record vote, the most encouraging thing about service in this Legislature is that what we do here, and what we say here becomes a matter of record either for us to point to with pride, or to hide from as time and years go by. I would suggest that you vote for the amendment, I hope you would, and thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Motion is the adoption of the Schmit amendment to LB 835. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Simple