

corresponding increases in their cost of doing business. Now further down the letter they get a little bit more specific on why they are opposed to LB 835. They state that LB 835 currently provides no safeguards to ensure the presence of a sufficient...presence of a competitive marketplace which is vital to containing the cost of telephone services. Without sufficient competition in the marketplace deregulation will lead to the unregulated monopoly pricing of telephone services. And I think that is my problem with the bill also, the fact that we will have no regulation of a monopoly. Now it is beyond me how anyone in this body can vote for a piece of legislation like this. I can understand everyone's concern to provide competitive long distance deregulation, if you might as the phrase has been coined, for intrastate long distance. I don't think there is anything wrong with that, it will lead to lower rates. But by voting for this amendment you will be insuring increases in the rates of telephone users. Now businesses have shown a great deal of concern about this. And I don't think it is in the best interest of the state from the ratepayers, as well as the 7,000...over 7,000 small businesses represented by the National Federation of Independent Businesses in the State of Nebraska that this bill should be enacted. With that, I urge you not to support the DeCamp amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: I move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: Do I see five hands? I do. I'll put the question to you. The question is, shall the debate now close? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Motion carries, the debate is closed. Senator DeCamp. Motion is...waive...the closing is waived. The motion then is to advance the bill, 8...to adopt the DeCamp amendment, excuse me, to the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk. Record vote has been requested.

CLERK: (Read record vote. See page 1747 of the Legislative Journal.) 29 ayes, 15 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.