

April 4, 1986

LB 835

the reasons that Senator Schmit is giving for the support of this amendment. And I'll turn the balance of my time over to Senator Schmit.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, you have four minutes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Harris. I appreciate that very much. Senator DeCamp says the Public Service Commission decides when competition exists. I have a question for Senator DeCamp, and I'd like him to answer it as briefly as possible. He speaks in glowing terms about the benefits of deregulation. Senator DeCamp, if 835 becomes law, how many companies can provide service to Neligh, Nebraska, local service to Neligh, Nebraska?

SENATOR DECAMP: Under 835 it is mandatory that anybody providing service continue to provide service. Additionally, the technologies that are available that are not covered by regulation would allow other concepts to come in, just as, for example, the individual that is putting a line across the Platte to compete against LT&T. So, that company would have a right and the obligation that is there now...

SENATOR SCHMIT: Pardon me, Johnny,...

SENATOR DECAMP: ...to continue to provide service...

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator, Senator, that would not be allowed under this bill, though. Is that not right?

SENATOR DECAMP: Wrong.

SENATOR SCHMIT: No, you are incorrect, John. Number two, what can the local telephone company do as far as their local charges are concerned in the Neligh area?

SENATOR DECAMP: The local telephone company, in Neligh, Nebraska, under the bill I have before you, can do less in increasing their charges than they can under the bill that you, as Chairman of Public Works, helped get passed a few years ago for those subscribers under I think it is 5,000. In other words their increases would be less than you allowed before, the hearings would be required, which weren't before, all of these things.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator DeCamp. The facts are,