

you about the bill. But I have not worked the floor or walked the floor to try to change your mind about it. I know you are all adults. I know you are all capable of making up your own mind and I respect the independence of your decision. But I would hope that you would recognize your responsibility to the constituency. There is no way, there is no way that you can support LB 835 and be responsible to the vast majority of your constituency. We have been told that there has been subsidized service in some areas. Let me suggest, for instance, that I didn't have a telephone. I could go down town, maybe, and use the pay phone. There are those individuals, some of whom represent the industry, who would like to speak to me. Is it not a service to that individual to be able to contact me also, as well as for me to call back to Lincoln or to Omaha, Nebraska. There has long been a philosophy in this country that there are some utilities, some services which are average in cost. We have it with rural free delivery. I would wonder what would happen in the rural areas today if we were to provide that the cost of delivering mail to the farms and ranches of this state were to pay for the cost. We've been told private industry will do this sort of thing and do it well. I would suggest, as I have said before, that if we were waiting for private industry to have brought electricity to the farms and ranches of Nebraska, you'd still be using a kerosene lantern on most of the farms and ranches in this state. I would suggest that it is in the public interest that there be adequate, efficient, capable service to all sectors of this state. Senator DeCamp speaks about improvements in technology. I agree, there will be some. But at the present time what pressure is there upon a local telephone company to adopt or to adapt to new methods of technology when they have a guaranteed territory, a guaranteed territory with the flexibility to price as they see fit, and the appeal process is virtually almost entirely impossible to attain. You have heard a great hue and cry about the furor about Initiative 300. It was placed in the Constitution by initiative procedure. How many times do you think you can rally the people to protest against a price increase? Most of them do not have the resources. Most of them do not have the facilities. Most of them do not have the wherewithal to do it. I would suggest that when you bring...even today, even today, the resources of the Public Service Commission pale when compared with the resources of the utility companies themselves. I'd like to ask Senator Warner a question, if he would yield please.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Warner, would you respond, please.