

bill that says it must go into effect. However, at the local level, at the local level I rather suspect it is not unreasonable to expect that some phone companies will say...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: ...will say that local measured service is something they want to try, and that the banks should pay more, and that any "phoneaholics" out there should pay a bit more than Widow Jones so that Widow Jones can pay \$7 or \$8 a month and still have phone service rather than \$50 so that she can subsidize the others. So if you are going to condemn local measured service, then don't say you are protecting Widow Jones. All I'm trying to tell you is there is total inconsistency in the arguments of Senator Abboud and Schmit on this. The bill does give the flexibility to begin making some of these adjustments so that Widow Jones will have service. I guess my time is up. I urge you to reject Senator Schmit's amendment. I'd like to go into some of the other things, but again I'll have to wait my time.

SPEAKER NICHOL: (Gavel.) We're getting a little noisy. Thank you. May I introduce some guests of mine, in the south balcony. We have 9 eighth grade students from Cedar Canon Rural School which is in Scotts Bluff County. They are accompanied by their head teacher and sponsors. Would you please welcome them to the Legislature. Please stand so we can see you folks. Four hundred miles to come watch us. Senator Abboud, please.

SENATOR ABOUD: Mr. President, colleagues, I'm glad we got this out in the open as far as this local measured service and what exactly is going on with this bill and why it is being pushed by the phone industry. My personal belief is that this bill probably wouldn't have come before the body for another 10 years if there hadn't been the confusion, in the telecommunications industry, that is taking place at this time across the nation. Now let's return back to the points that Senator DeCamp has been making and Senator Schmit in dealing with local measured service. Now why is the phone industry in favor of local measured service? Is it because they want the amount of revenue that is being generated through the phones to decrease? Are they in the business of telling consumers or a person using the phone that they would prefer that you didn't use the phone because they would like to have your bills as low as possible? I just don't think so. I think local measured service is going to increase substantially the amount of revenue that a phone