

company will be making. It will be their gold vein. This is how they are going to make their money in the future, these local utilities, the Northwestern Bell's, the Southwestern Bell's, the Mountain Bell's. This is how they are going to make their money. They can't make the money on the long distance any longer, so they want local measured service at the local level. Now to be fair to them I think we should examine the record in the past and how they have viewed their rates in dealing with the Public Service Commission. Have they come into the Public Service Commission saying I think we made too much money this year? Mr. Public Service Commissioners, we would prefer that you reduce the rates this year so we can give a little Christmas bonus to the people that are using the phone service. Or, did they say the shareholders that we are beholden to need more money? The directors and the executives of the phone company said to themselves we need an increase in pay this year. Let's look at the record. Since 1978 Northwestern Bell, my local phone company, has come before the Public Service Commission on a number of different occasions and they've asked for increases. In that time period, since 7-25-78, when they requested the first one, up until the most recent one, when they requested an additional \$14.5 million, overall they requested approximately, let's exclude the last one, approximately \$127 million, a little over that. Now did the Public Service Commission say, well, we agree with you, we're going to give you everything that you asked for and more? Unfortunately that was not the case. The Public Service Commission granted only \$55 million. Now that is quite a difference between \$127 million that they requested and the \$55 million that they actually received. Now I'm used to dealing in millions of dollar figures here with the budget, but that is still a lot of money to me. And it makes me wonder who is being up front about this. It makes me wonder why they want deregulation at that local level. I'm in favor of competition when it benefits all. I think competition reduces rates. But when there is no competition, when you have a monopoly, someone has to come in and say this is the proper rate. In this instance we are saying, in spite of the fact that you have a monopoly, we are going to let you set your own rates. If you want to charge 10 cents a minute for that local measured service, fine, 20 cents, fine. If you want to charge 50 cents to some poor little old widow that's only means of communication...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...is using that telephone, fine. Now I don't