

mean to exaggerate the point. But just look at the figures. They are in business to make a profit. That is great. That is what American industry is all about. They should be in business to make a profit. But we have a responsibility to the people of this state, and that responsibility means that when you have a monopoly you should have regulation. There is nothing wrong with that. Where you have competition the government should stay out of it. That is my belief. Let the two industries compete, or let the industry compete among itself. I think it is great that long distance rates are coming down because of competition. But it is not going to happen at the local level. Senator Schmit has offered a very fair compromise. He says that where you do have competition you should be allowed to compete without interference of the government. Where there is no competition the Public Service Commission should, in fact, be allowed to examine the rates and give a fair rate of return to the company. Up to this time they've received a cost plus basis. They've never had to want for money or additional rates for the telephone use. We've always had excellent service in the State of Nebraska from the phone service...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR ABBODD: ...at least up at Northwestern Bell, and I urge you to support the Schmit amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Withem, please.

SENATOR WITHEM: I would call the question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is called. I have eight speakers lined up. Do I see five hands to cease debate? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes.

SPEAKER NICHOL: What do you propose to do here?

SENATOR WITHEM: Oh, I would call...ask for a call of the house and a roll call vote.

SPEAKER NICHOL: All right. The question is, shall the house go under call? All those vote aye, opposed vote nay. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.