

express companies, telegraph companies, motor transportation, electric public service, storage warehouses, and warehouse grains. So if we're going to remove the Public Service Commission from this, I have amendments up to remove it from all of them. So I would heartily support Senator Schmit's amendment. Go ahead, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Haberman. Senator McFarland would like a minute.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator McFarland.

SENATOR MCFARLAND: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Mr. President, fellow colleagues, I voted to advance 835 from General File. I did it because I was cognizant of the problems of LT&T and Northwestern Bell and the other phone companies in the long distance area. But I've really agonized over this bill because I feel that it is an...the bill does permit unregula...an unregulated monopoly in the local market area. A person, consumer has no choice if the local rates go up. He or she may either discontinue that service, or pay the higher rate. And I think...I voted to...that Senator Schmit's amendment is an effective compromise and resolution to this problem. It allows the phone companies to raise their rates to 90 percent within 60 days of a request. It does away with the lag time in the Public Service Commission, and for that reason I would think that this amendment is an effective resolution of that problem of LT&T and the consumer. I think it meets both their interests. Therefore, if you are like me and you were hoping that some type of compromise or resolution could be reached, I hope you would also vote to accept the amendment that has been proposed by Senator Schmit. Thank you very much.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator McFarland. Senator Harris would like a minute also.

SENATOR HARRIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we've kind of focused on, as Johnny DeCamp puts it, Widow Jones. What about Widow Jones? How is she going to be affected by this? Senator DeCamp characterized Widow Jones as taking care of our "phoneaholics" like Senator Schmit, and I must admit myself. But I would like to relate to you an exchange I had in a meeting with a bunch of the telephone folks at the Cornhusker Hotel. I said, I just want to know one thing, just answer me one question because I have concerns about the people and the folks that are going to be affected by this that might not be