

one big swoop, and turn the dog loose. I think you know what would happen. There would be chaos for a time, and it probably would not serve the public interest was the conclusion of this study because there would be the same situation that existed at the beginning where you would have a major company with tremendous resources that would have the ability to dominate the marketplace. So it was the conclusion of those individuals who did the study that total deregulation would not work. But I can guarantee for you, ladies and gentlemen, that I would prefer to vote for that kind of bill rather than to vote for LB 835 as drafted by Senator DeCamp. Because LB 835, as drafted by Senator DeCamp, protects the existing entities, protects those existing entities to the detriment, I believe, of the individual customer, the individual consumer. Senator DeCamp has discussed the possibility of prices going down. We talked about that just a little bit early on in the stage of the study. We talked about it early on in the stage of this hearing and in this debate on the floor. Ladies and gentlemen, almost by now to a man or woman we agree that prices are going to go up under LB 835. We have said and we have almost guaranteed that by virtue of the fact that if I am providing service to Bellwood, Nebraska, and I've got that priority, I am in a position to do as I please in that priority with very little, if any, Public Service regulation. I suggest that is not in the public interest. That is not why we are here, and that is not why we were elected to this body. The public expects better of us. It is not easy, I recognize, to oppose your friends and your neighbors and the people whom you respect, the people who have helped to make this telephone system an excellent one. But I want to tell you that I have stood on this floor many times and defended business. And I'm a little appalled some times and I see some of the people who normally would be on the side of the consumer, who instead are saying, well, we think we've got to turn this thing loose. Turn it loose if you will, ladies and gentlemen, but do not turn it loose on the pricing and control it on the territory. It is not fair to yourself, it's not fair to the public, and in the end run...the long run, it will not be fair to the industry. Mr. President, thank you very much.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Abboud, please. Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: You are the last one, so we won't need that. Senator DeCamp, would you like to close on your motion.