

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Senator Schmit, I haven't crossed that bridge yet. I have assumed Section 11 would be removed and I haven't made that hard decision about what to do if it is not removed.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Let's hope you don't have to make that decision, Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I'm hoping I won't have to, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: That at some point in time...I just want to point out once again, you know I've heard Senator DeCamp say this a few times, and I don't want to engage in any kind of controversial comments, but Senator DeCamp said one time when in conversation, if the good Lord hadn't given sheep fleece, he wouldn't have meant for them to be shorn. When you look at this bill, now Senator Hoagland very correctly I think perhaps wants to take Section 11 out. But in the original language we provide that...you know we don't want any competition, but just in case we do have some liability we want to be exempt from that also. That is going a little far. Now, Senator DeCamp, you have a lot of ability. But I think that even today, in retrospect, you would say that that was going a little bit farther than you should have gone. I have one other problem and that is this, as I said earlier, you can window-dress this bill, you can powder it, you can perfume it, you can rouge it, you can scrub it, you can do any of those things you want to, but when it gets done, it is not a competitive bill. You have only taken the competition out of the territory. So, no matter what you do, in the final analysis I do not believe that we can go back to our constituents and say we've got a deregulation bill that provides competition, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. We haven't done it. And no one is going to be fooled, in the marketplace, in the final analysis. I would hope, that regardless of what you do with this amendment, that you will not vote to advance the bill. It would be amazing, I believe it would be a tragedy if on a 24, 25, 26 vote we took steps, here in Nebraska, that turned over to the industry the pricing for telephone services in the most dramatic move that has been done perhaps in any state in the Union. That is not progress, ladies and gentlemen. That is the reverse of progress.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, then Senator Abboud.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Could I ask Senator Hoagland to yield to a question.