

I am not going to say that again, Senator Smith. So I would say though that Senator Smith does have a very strong concern about providing phone service for all individuals and I think what this amendment will do is it will provide a lifeline for the elderly when phone rates do go sky-high and I guess I see this more as an acknowledgement, number one, that we will have local measured service. Number two, it will cost a lot of money thus pricing a lot of people out of the range of having phone service. And I guess it is good that we discuss it and get it out in the open because that is what is going to happen. We are going to have local measured service and it is going to cost a lot of money. Now, we have responsibilities to people in society, the elderly, particularly, as State Senators, to have them have basic services; heating, so they don't freeze during the winter, food, shelter, and I think that phone service is going into that category for a number of elderly for emergency situations, when emergencies happen where they can dial an ambulance or a hospital or by the same token so someone can call into them day to day and let...and to just check in to make sure that they are all right. So I see this more as a lifeline. I do see it though as the ominous sign of the future of what phone service will become and with that I guess at this point in time I don't see anything wrong with the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Hoagland, please. Then Senator Schmit, please.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, when Senator Smith showed me this amendment, I told her very frankly that Senator DeCamp would take anything in order to keep his votes locked in there, I recognize that. There are several things that Senator DeCamp needs in the bill. One, he needs deregulation of the local rate. Number two, he needs to have territorial protection. And, number three, he needs that long distance deregulation for our larger company. Give him those three things and he will take the cemetery right along with it. He won't really care because that is the guts of the whole issue, and as much as I respect Senator Smith and her efforts, I want to point out that notwithstanding her good intentions to the contrary, I am concerned that the Public Service Commission will not be able to exercise any effective control. You want to remember all the various companies you have and the fact that they can come in every 90 days with a rate application increase. What is going to happen is that if the flat...if the measured service is set for six cents a minute and the flat rate is \$8.00 a month, it is easy to jack one up and then the other and then one up and then