

the other until in effect you accomplish the purpose that they set out to do and that is to increase those rates. I do not believe that it is going to do what Senator Smith wants it to do. I know she believes in that and I commend her for trying but I will be very frank with you, in the length of time that I have worked on this issue, I do not have any confidence that what she wants to do will happen. You are going to set in...once you adopt 835 as amended, if you can remember what you have done, you have set the stage for the most massive shift of resources from the people of the State of Nebraska to the companies who are in the telephone industry that has happened since we deregulated the cost of money and that has been six and a half years ago and I don't need to go into any detail on that. I want to recall just a few of the things that have happened. Every time we have had deregulation, we talk about the benefits of deregulation. I am sure that some of you know that Nebraska, as a rural state, as a sparsely populated state, has to suffer some of the cost of low density population. The more that you extend this kind of an idea, the greater is going to be the disparity between the haves and the have-nots. And I don't think that there is...there are some good arguments, say pay what it costs, but I suggest that it is of some value for me to be able to call Howard Lamb at Anselmo and the Monahan Ranch out in Cherry County just as much as it is for them to be able to call Omaha or Lincoln and vice versa. If we ever get to the point where we say we are going to calculate the cost of delivering service based upon the fact that we run a line to a certain post and that is it, then I would suggest if we continue that philosophy, there are going to be a great many people who are never going to be able to afford a telephone. Not so much even in the rural areas but let me suggest that in the urban areas the small business man is going to get a rude awakening, the individual who does not use the telephone a lot but who needs that telephone, but based upon the permanent cost, he probably...and his usage, he is going to have to pay a considerably higher rate. It is not going to be just the rural areas that is going to suffer. You are going to see a tremendous increase and I would suggest...I know that many of you have made up your mind and I might just as well be beating my head against the pillar over here to talk to some of you as I am...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...to be making this speech. But the time will come, the time will come when you will say, I wish I would have