

\$1,150,000. Now, I am just going to ask you, how many projects are you willing to cut out of the present bills that you voted for this morning in order to make room for this financial albatross? Worse than that, if it did, in fact, do the job, then I could understand and I understand Senator Smith again thinks she is trying to make the bill better. I appreciate that. No matter how you dress this bill up, it is not going to be better. You have thrown away, you have thrown away the opportunity to have orderly, measured deregulation with some kind of built-in protection for the public. I am not faulting anyone who supports the bill. I know it is a complex issue. I wish that more people would have had time to have studied the report that was made by Arthur Anderson. I wish more people would have had time to have studied LB 1119. I apologize for that to the extent that I am responsible but I want to point out that we all have a myriad of responsibilities. There comes a time on this floor when a great many times we vote based upon faith and understanding of what is in a bill and what the bill intends to do. I am just going to suggest, and I am not an expert in this area, far be it, I am trying to learn along with all of you, but I can tell you that, based upon the experience that I have had and the studies that have been conducted and the people with whom I have discussed it, this bill is not going to do that what we want it to do for the State of Nebraska and the citizens. Second, I want to point out, I am convinced there is a constitutional problem with the bill. We cut off of a customer's right to due process if the PSC does not enter an order within a certain time. This is unconstitutional on its very face. Also, I do not believe that the bill meets the constitutional test that was announced by the Supreme Court in the case of Ramsey v. State of Nebraska. We are not specifying a definite and particular type of deregulation in this bill. We are speaking in a broad sense. We are mandating general provisions. I think that is important to remember and it is difficult, extremely difficult to try to satisfy my concern in that regard. Again, I want to emphasize in closing, we started out with what was supposed to be a simple bill for deregulation. It has become an expensive, complex bill which very few people understand. I do not even know, I doubt if anyone knows...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...how many amendments are tacked onto this bill. I would suggest that when the bill comes out in Final Reading form, if you take a look at it, you will be shocked at what you see. Very rarely, very rarely when you craft a piece