

SPEAKER NICHOL: Time is up.

SENATOR ABOUD: I feel that this is a bad bill and I urge you to vote against it. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Thank you. Senator Withem, please. Senator Lamb, and then we will come back to Senator Withem.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members...Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the advancement of the bill. I would like to draw your attention to the editorial which I circulated, the Lincoln Journal editorial. Over in the second column, near the bottom, just read one paragraph which I think sums up the situation. It says, "The isolated and economically weak are apt to be particularly punished by telecommunications deregulation as they have been by all other kinds of deregulation. Few plugging for LB 835 seem to be thinking about them." Another thing I have noticed on the floor of the Legislature in the extended debate on this issue is the fact that there have been so few people that are verbally supporting the bill. How many people have stood up and said, this is a great bill? You know, not very many, not very many at all. A number of people are supporting the bill but holding their nose at the same time. This is not a good bill. I would ask that you do not advance it and I would like to...I would like to just mention that as you look at the bill more and more, more bad things you find in it and that is exemplified by the many amendments which have been offered. You know, every time you read the bill you see something that you don't like and so then forth comes another amendment. And I would challenge you to read it again and again and I think you will see as you read it again and again that there are more things in there that you don't like and that this thing really should be held over and debated at length again. I had an interesting experience in my own legislative district. Valentine, Nebraska, the Chamber of Commerce Secretary signed the letter supporting the bill. However, since that time, I have...the people up there have finally looked at the bill and thought about the issue and have decided to rescind that. I have had phone calls today from a number of people in that community, including the President of the Chamber of Commerce, that they now say that they are not supporting the bill, that although originally they thought it was just a perfunctory bill that really didn't mean that much, as they get involved in the issue they become more and more concerned that this is not a good bill for the State of Nebraska. And you talk to some of these supporters out in the