

April 9, 1986

LB 835A

deregulating and increasing the cost. Let me tell you something, you are not deregulating, you are not deregulating. You are turning it over, but you are placing upon the PSC additional burden relative to whether or not you are going to allow the telephone companies to have a free hand with rate setting. Now under the proposal of 1119, which I have offered to you, we very logically, very responsibly provided a 50 cent per year charge per line to fund the cost of the program. That is why there is a difference in the proposals for funding that we have discussed. I would suggest that you cannot, you cannot wipe out the need by wiping out the money. If you get it down below the point that it is able to function, then you know the job is not going to get done. Senator DeCamp is a pilot, and a pretty good one, better than you would think he is by listening to him talk sometime. But the facts are that he knows that you can't get an airplane off the ground at half throttle. You can drive it down the interstate from here to Colorado, it is not going to get off the ground. By the same token, the PSC is not going to function without adequate money in the manner in which we have the responsibility to see to it that they do function.

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: We have heard criticism of the Public Service Commission, a constitutional body, time after time on this floor. I recall when one time there was a bill, it may even have become law, that said you can't pay a Public Service Commission attorney more than 17,500. And he's supposed to compete with a rate attorney that comes in that draws 5 times, 10 times that? How foolish can we get? I support the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Lundy, please.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Question.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Question has been called. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting to cease debate. Record, Mr. Clerk, please.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Debate has ceased. Senator Warner, would you close, please.

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