

company is making.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR ABOUD: I don't really mean to single out this particular company, but it is the best example. It is my phone company and I felt comfortable in discussing it. Now, as I stated earlier on Select File, this hasn't been the first time they have been saying that they need more money. Back in 1984, they requested approximately \$34 million from the Nebraska Public Service Commission. They were granted \$22 million. Back in 1983, they requested \$42 million increase in their revenues or rates and they were only granted \$8.03 million. In this last year, they were requesting approximately \$14 million and I don't believe they are going to receive that particular amount of money. Now...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR ABOUD: ...in...

PRESIDENT: One minute left.

SENATOR ABOUD: In total, they have requested approximately 55...or approximately 120...

SENATOR MARSH: (Microphone not activated) I cannot hear.

PRESIDENT: Thank you for calling it to our attention. (Gavel.) Let's have quiet in the Chamber so the speaker can be heard.

SENATOR ABOUD: Thank you, Senator Marsh. I think there is individuals on this floor that would really not like to hear this because what we are talking about is a situation where there is no need for this bill and it is just a situation where they haven't been getting the rate increases that they have been requesting from the Public Service Commission. Over the last few years, since 1978, Northwestern Bell has requested over \$127 million in rate increases and at this time they had only received \$55 million. Now, keep in mind here that they are in the business to make money. When you look at their corporate report, the bottom line is, how much money they made, whether they made a profit, whether they broke even, whether they are going to give dividends back to those stockholders. Their bottom line is not service. Their bottom line is not to make sure that everyone in the State of Nebraska has a telephone.