

pass a bill to bail out? And then he suggested we should just deregulate long distance. Well, Senator Abboud, the issue isn't so much "making money as destroying a system." Let me explain that. At the present time, as I have tried to suggest repeatedly, you are forced to charge artificially high rates for let's say this particular product. Let's say a grocery store is ordered by virtue of the order from the Commission to charge \$1 for a loaf of bread, and then they are ordered by the Commission to sell another product at one-half or one-third of cost, let's say sell all the meat at one-third of cost. That all works good if you have a closed system and everybody has to do the same thing, but that is not the way the world is anymore because, you see, the customer that walks in and says or sees that you are charging him \$1 for bread says, but I can buy the bread somewhere else or I can get a different substitute for the bread. I can get it for 50 cents, why should I pay you \$1. That is what we have going on. And so the base that makes up, the base, in other words all the customers that make up that company, they are being lost and the company is being eroded, and they will not be able eventually under these conditions to subsidize artificially over here, the meat.

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR DECAMP: Therefore, the system is as proposed to begin a process, a process over a period of time, which will allow actual cost to be charged for the product, and so, yes, one of the first things you would see as this bill moves into effect is a lowering, a lowering of cost for certain services, long distance as one example. You may see and will see, irrespective of whether this bill passes or not, you will see some changes in some local telephone rates, in other words to meet the actual cost of providing that service. But unless you do this, unless you begin the process, and that is all we are doing is beginning the process in an orderly fashion, unless you do it, the consequences I think are much worse. You are going to destroy a very good company, many of them that exist.

PRESIDENT: Time is expiring.

SENATOR DECAMP: I would ask you not to kill the bill.

PRESIDENT: Senator Goll.

SENATOR GOLL: Mr. President and colleagues, we have listened to the issues surrounding LB 835 for over two months. According to