

it. Read it, and if you can in good conscience then pursue the course you have undertaken for yourself and your constituents, I would suggest you have a different sense of fair play and responsibility to your constituents than I was taught.

PRESIDENT: Your time is expiring.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I hope I have a chance to speak again.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: (No response.)

PRESIDENT: Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I would just say briefly that again for those people who do not have anyone to represent them, I do not feel that this bill would be in the best interest of the small businessmen who represent the largest number of employees in this country. More than all the biggest businesses in the country, small businessmen hire more employees. I think about those people who will automatically get phone bills increased and will be totally and completely cut off from the outside world, and I shudder to think of some poor helpless individual being alone in their home and hearing someone try to break in, and they don't even have a phone to call 911. I ask you to consider those constituents of yours. I wish this bill had not come up in an election year because I think that there is a great deal of pressure this year because it is an election year. I would yield the rest of my time to Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Higgins. One of my good friends in this body told me, I think I am going to vote for the bill because I believe it is good for economic development. I would just like to suggest and follow up what Senator Higgins has said. Economic development for whom? For a few telephone companies or economic development that will encourage dozens, hundreds, thousands of industries to come to this state because telephone rates are competitive, because telephone rates are fair, because there is true competition, not a monopoly. Senator Vard Johnson speaking earlier spoke about what was going to happen on the first of January, 1987, with reference to what could possibly be a 6 1/2 percent increase or a 6 1/2 percent sales tax. Let me tell you, ladies and gentlemen, that will become known as black Thursday, black Thursday because also on