

is obviously this bill is probably one of the most serious bills of the Legislature this session, given the quiet on the floor as we discuss what I know happens to be one of the most really hard questions, hard questions for legislators to answer, because each one of us really does want to do what we believe in our mind and our heart is the right thing, not just for ourselves politically, but for the citizens of Nebraska. You know for a long period of time, and I don't even know the number of years, 75 years, 80 years, I can't even tell you the number of years, we enjoyed, we enjoyed the existence of a regulated monopoly in our life, and that regulated monopoly was our basic telephone services, and then one day there was an earthquake, and it was a legal earthquake. It was a judge, it was a judge that said that that monopoly is truly a monopoly and it affects an unfair restraint of trade and it has to be broken up, and so the AT&T system, that great aunt, I guess, of all of the debenture holders and the like, changed. And then the Federal Communications Commissions came in and it said we are going to deregulate a whole host of telephone services in the name of competition, in the name of technological improvements, in the name of those things that we believe essential to American society. That wasn't an earthquake of your making or of my making or the phone company's making. It happened and every time there it an earthquake, there are fissures, and there are scars, and there are buildings that are shaken, and there are cracks in the walls, and things are never the same. Things are never the same. The world changes because of that kind of a massive rupture in the basic structure, in the basic structure, and we had an earthquake, and I was happy to live with their regulated monopoly. I happen to love my basic phone service, and ever since the breakup, I have been angry inside about the three different phone bills I get, and I have been angry inside about not knowing where to take my phone to get it repaired. I have been angry inside by the cheap phones that are for sale, and I have been angry inside by a whole host of things that is a product of the earthquake. But now I am a state senator and I have got to deal with a changed world, not the same world, but a changed world, and a changed world says, I have to allow some change. I can't maintain status quo, because if I maintain status quo, that rock that got rattled in the process is going to slowly, inexorably dissolve. That rock is going to dissolve, and it is going to dissolve because the cream of the business over a long period of time is going to be taken away by the unregulated competitive carriers, and the subsidy that I have enjoyed as a residential consumer for years and years and years is going to be gone, and my rates are going to go up. So what