

have made up your mind. It was my original intent that based upon this kind of a vote that I would have withdrawn my motion to return the bill. I, however, feel very strongly that it would be the wrong thing to do. Then I thought perhaps I would make my last pitch on the bill and then withdraw the amendment. But since there may be others who might want to respond on the proponents side, I will not do that but I would not object if, of course, someone calls the question immediately upon my termination of my remarks. You have just seen a vote here today which is a most unique vote on the floor of this Legislature. During the time that I have been here, the last 18 years, I think that I have perhaps represented the business interest of this state at least as high a percentage of time as has any other member. It is kind of interesting, if you read the votes on that board, to note those individuals who voted in favor of returning the bill, a large majority of them have many times represented business. It is kind of interesting also that I have stood here from time to time as an advocate of the consumer, as a defender of the consumer's rights, and I have usually had certain members with me. Those members are not with me on this issue. It is possible, it is possible that I am wrong. It is possible that they are right. I do not believe so. You have seen, as Senator Vard Johnson has referred, a pall hang over this body today. Of course, there is interest, deep interest. Let me caution you. There is also a similar kind of attention at a wake. Now I am not referring to some of the wakes that some of you might have attended. I am referring to the normal kind of a wake where respect is shown for the deceased. With the passage of LB 835, you have buried on this floor for a long time, if not forever, the rights of the individual consumer for redress against a very powerful business entity. Senator Vard Johnson said, it started with an earthquake, an earthquake by Judge Green. Well, ladies and gentlemen, it looks as though it may end, not with a whimper, but with a, I am not going to say that, it may end on this floor, but, Senator Vard Johnson, I disagree with you that you will be able to tell your loyal constituents the feds made me do it. I well recall, as a member of a large family, from time to time, I used to say my big brother made me do it when I did something which, you know, I knew I was going to be held accountable for. The facts are that my parents didn't believe me then either. They are not going to believe you now, Vard. They are going to call you and they are going to say, Senator Vard, isn't it true that we have a local monopoly? Isn't it true that the littlest telephone company you represent, not that you represent but for whom you speak, has a monopoly on local