

service? With that kind of monopoly, what kind of competition exists? None, ladies and gentlemen, none. We have here before us a bill, which as I have said before, guarantees a protected territory, guarantees a right to do business to a certain entity with flexibility on pricing. The 10 percent limitation as you have referred to so often is a facade. There are as many opportunities to get around that limitation as there are seats on this floor, and believe you me, the individuals responsible will use each and every one of them. There will be adjustments in rates. Let me tell you, for every adjustment downward, you are going to see a dozen upward. We have talked about the increase in the local rate. Yes, there will be. There will be an increase in the local business rate. As soon as the competition has smoked out those long distance companies which are able to give competition, then you will see adjustments in the long distance rates. The total result will be a massive increase in the cost to the consumer, to the businessmen of this state. Yes, there will be a transfer of money, a substantial transfer of money. I have said it before and I say it again, there is going to be some wailing and some gnashing of teeth because of the \$20 million overrides, and because of the increase in the sales tax, but that increase will be overshadowed, ladies and gentlemen, with what we have done here today. I congratulate my opponents. I congratulate Senator DeCamp. He is a tough opponent, a worthy adversary, and he has done it almost single-handedly on this floor because, as I have said before and has been indicated earlier, not many individuals can find the arguments for this bill that make the kind of ordinary common sense which usually prevail. So you rely upon those euphemisms. You rely upon the rhetoric. You talk about the rights of business and so forth. Ladies and gentlemen, I can write the book on the business rights. I can write the book on it. I have lectured here from time to time upon the need for business to grow and prosper, to be free, in order to be able to earn the money to pay the taxes to support the services of state government and other local governments that we need. But the right to be free, ladies and gentlemen, the right to do business does not mean that we guarantee a monopoly with the right to price without restraint. That is what we are doing here today. I would suggest that when this bill becomes law, and when the dam breaks, and those individuals who have stood here today and said we are going to do it better, we are going to bring new business to the state, we are going to provide new opportunities, ladies and gentlemen, I know what pressure is and I have taken my share of it and I don't mind it. I am a little bit embarrassed, I would have to say, perhaps at the overkill.