

years. The first place is I feel sorry for the senators that have not been involved in it. One question that I have in my mind is our state telephone bill, where is this going to go? Yet when I think back, look how our long distance rates have reduced in the past few years instead of increased. How often do we pick up the telephone now and make a call instead of that postage and so on? I think we all do that in our own office. I think Senator Schmit spoke about not one person has mentioned that this may create jobs and so on. In my own community we have an opportunity for a couple of larger businesses to come in. And one of the questions that is asked, do you have competitive telephone service? At the time we probably have to say no. But I will guarantee you that there is some waiting out in the wings. I know that what is good for Grand Island is not good for maybe Gordon, Nebraska. I do have that concern as much as anyone else. Also on the local service, the way I see it, if we do not try to move forward and maybe in the long-run I foresee local service going up more because of the fact that we did not allow the companies to be competitive on the long distance service, and they in turn have lost that service. So there is only one way that I see local service to go. I agree with Senator Schmit. We senators are between a rock and a hard wall. No matter which way it goes, or no matter which way it would have gone we, too, will suffer the blame for this. But I believe truly in my heart that this is something that simply cannot be avoided through new technology and so on. If we do not allow companies to be competitive, some of these companies will not be there. I know they make far more financial returns than a lot of businesses. But I, in my own mind, feel that this cannot be avoided. One other thing that I must say incidentally, I will support the deregulation of the telephone industry and, hopefully, I have made the right decisions. One other thing that I want to mention to Senator Schmit, it looks to me like the votes are cast. I was going to call the question. Should he or Senator DeCamp, either one, not apologize for one second to the public or the people. He has truly felt in his own mind and his own heart that he was doing the very best. And I know that this has been a long, hard time for both of them. And particularly Senator Schmit, he has really done what he feels is fair and best for the public, and I want to commend him on that. That is about all I have to say on it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President, colleagues, I would rise to