

that off onto the telephone ratepayers and not having to come to the Legislature to get that extended. The trend in government practice, taxation in the 1980s was not to raise general tax rates but to find specific users' fees and maybe in this case I don't even know if you could call it a user's fee to tack those services onto. I think this is a fairly significant change in the bill. The bill was designed simply to deal with some problems with the 911 contracts between subdivisions and to take away the taxing authority of the Legislature with a Select File amendment when there's been no public hearing at all on this concept, I think is a fairly major change and I'm going to be voting against it and I hope other members of the body would do so also.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President. I also rise in opposition to this amendment and not so much as to the process that Senator Beutler brings to us, although I would like to have the input of the Public Service Commission and how that would affect, but this is a large policy, to me it's a large policy question because there have been access charges and so on that have been deregulated and now we're putting the fight back. As I read it in the last two lines, a greater amount established by rule and regulation adopted and promulgated by the Public Service Commission. That causes me some concern. I think it is a departure from what Senator Baack was intending to do with the bill. At least it would be my opinion as I heard the bill through committee and so on that we should let the bill as written with the 50-cent top, let's let it work, let's see how it occurs. If we do have problems, then we can address that. My concern at this point is that we're going to shift a lot of the controversy back to the Public Service Commission that there will be incentives, as Senator Withem was talking about, to place those disputes into the Public Service Commission for greater amounts over the 50-cent per month charge. At this point, I'm comfortable with the 50-cent cap on the surcharges but am uncomfortable about allowing greater amounts to be done by rule and regulation and thus the dispute moving to the Public Service Commission. So I think that Senator Withem is correct. As a co-sponsor, I would yield to the intent of the bill and to the co-sponsors, but as one who has kind of followed this bill through, I am uncomfortable with putting more of that back to the Public Service Commission. With that, I also would oppose the amendment. Thank you.