

there is all kinds of competition out there. Cox Cable, just the other day you may have seen the decision that says they aren't to be regulated. So the competition is there. What Senator Schmit would have if he had his way, I believe, is a system that has far more regulation than exists now, as his amendment would have, far...hundreds of thousands of dollars had to be paid to finance the Public Service Commission for additional regulation so that one company, Sprint, can have the benefit of having subsidized artificially high rates so that they can be successful. They will be successful depending upon whether or not they can compete. You would think, listening to the arguments, you would think that the whole purpose of the bill is to increase rates. Believe it or not, the opposition is a result of people trying to stop lowering of rates. That is the essence of the bill. That is why there is so much opposition because somebody doesn't want rates lowered because they are afraid it will be tough to compete. But because a lot of misleading of the public has occurred, that other impression has been given. So I would urge you to accept the Hefner amendment. I think it is more than reasonable. As I say, it maintains existing law in that limited area, the very limited group which are subscribers under 5,000 in number and, as I say, we have already passed three years ago with the help of Senator Schmit and Senator Lamb some deregulation there, essentially the same as what the bill does on others.

PRESIDENT: On the Hefner amendment, Senator Hoagland, do you wish to speak on the amendment?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Question.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called. Do I see five hands? I see five hands. I will put the question to you. Shall the debate cease on the Hefner amendment? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. At the close of this vote I am going to erase these names and then hereafter any other amendments you will have to put your lights on again. Please record your vote. The motion is to cease debate on the Hefner amendment to the DeCamp amendment. Have you all voted? Record the vote, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 1 nay to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. Senator Hefner, you may