

important bill. So will you just go over it again so that I can get it clear. I'm concerned about the elderly and I want to know what this amendment is going to do to the bill.

SENATOR SCHMIT: First of all in the area of long distance service, I believe sincerely that if 835 becomes law the major carriers will, as Senator DeCamp has indicated, perhaps drop their charges to the point where they drive out the new competition. In a year or so there won't be any competition. Then they are then in a position, because of their vast resources, to come back in and do as they please on long distance charges. I would suggest also that while they drop those charges for the long distance service, they would be in an excellent position to increase the charges for local service. Senator Abboud spoke in regard to local measured service. That is an area where many companies want to enter. I want to point out something that I think is very important. There are many elderly people in this country who today rely upon the telephone, not just as a means of communication, but as a method of psychological reassurance. They have limited access to transportation. They have limited access to markets. They have limited access to those other services that are necessary for most of us which we take as almost casual, in a casual manner. But if local measured service becomes a fact, many of the elderly people, who today rely upon a system of communication between themselves and their families and their friends, will find that they do not...are not able to afford it. I would like to say one more thing. It is my understanding that, in speaking to the Department of Social Services, that a majority of the constituents of the Nebraska Social Services Department, even today, do not have telephones. I would ask you, and I would hope that you would listen. I would ask...

SPEAKER NICHOL: Excuse me, Senator Schmit. (Gavel.) Please, let's hold our conversation down so the speaker doesn't have to scream. Thank you, Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Most of you are family people. Most of you know what it is like to wake in the middle of the night with a sick child, or to have urgent need for some other kind of emergency service. Ask yourself...place yourself in the position of needing that kind of service and not being able to afford it. Today that is a reality in many single parent homes in the State of Nebraska. If this bill becomes law, it will become a reality in more because there will be many people who simply will not be able to afford that local service which today