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LB 514

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: That...that's correct. The other...what you do do though is that those people in those high-cost areas are going to see a substantial increase...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...in their basic phone rate.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Tell me why a mega-hog operation, for example, a gigantic operation that happens to be in a very rural area and has...and has higher cost, why should we be subsidizing them?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Well, I think the answer to that is that they're part of the system. I...you know, they have telephone service as well. We don't go and look at a company and say you have the means so your telephone service is going to be higher. We try to have uniform rates all over.

SENATOR BEUTLER: I mean here we're being tough on the poor people in the one instance, and we're handing it over to the rich people in the other instance.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Well, I think that's a characterization that's probably worse than the one I gave before...

SENATOR BEUTLER: (Laugh)

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...because you're making the assumption that, in terms of de minimis numbers...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: ...of lines, that really is a small number of people.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Bromm, for discussion on the Chambers amendment to LB 514.