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SENATOR CHAMBERS: And now to bring us back to the bill to which your amendment is to be attached, I hope not. We are looking at a situation where power companies will have laid cable in areas where existing telephone companies have not dared tread as of this point. Is that true?

SENATOR BROMM: I think in some localities that's true.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And there is no intention that we see on the immediate horizon of any telephone companies that are existing now, whether they're...they are these cooperatives or these giants, moving into those areas because there may not be enough customers or any what they feel would make it a viable option for them. Let me shorten the question. It's not likely that existing telephone companies on their own will move into some of these areas. Isn't that true?

SENATOR BROMM: That is...I...I don't think that's entirely true. I think...I think it's happening in some areas, Senator Chambers, but it's going to be longer and more difficult in other areas because of the lack of need or interest.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, do you think there will be some areas of the state which it is not likely that these telephone companies will go into without some kind of subsidy...

SENATOR BROMM: Well...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...or being able to ride on the backs of the power companies which have laid cable?

SENATOR BROMM: Well, that plus the development of wireless technology which is coming.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So we are not talking realistically about these power companies that have laid fiberoptic cable really being in competition with anybody in certain areas of the state?

SENATOR BROMM: Not in...

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.