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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 645

sell-out deal, we would be in a different posture from that we're facing today; from the posture which the state will be in when LB 645 becomes law, as it certainly shall. The Governor you know is going to sign it. He's got to get support from everyplace that he can. He's not worried about public power people supporting him for Governor, but he's worried about telecommunications people. How much money have they spent lobbying this bill? Which shows that they've got plenty of money, and they can get their money back by raising their rates. And I'm not that confident in the Public Service Commission looking out to the extent they should for the public's interest. The PSC was mentioned by Senator Janssen when I talked about these phone companies and others gouging the public, and he feels that the PSC moderates that. You know why I switched to Qwest for my long distance service, Senator Landis? You might be the only one listening. I had had AT&T for decades. They put in that charge for long distance service even if you don't use it.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I talked to Qwest and they didn't have that cost, and they argued that way, and I talked to their lobbyist. So I switched to Qwest. A couple of months later, Qwest imposes the same kind of fee. So they're all in it together. One says I'm for you, the other one says I'm against you. They cancel each other out because neither one of them is for the consumer and both are against the consumer. And it will balance out for them. I'm not fighting Senator Brashear's amendment because that's a lost cause. Those of us who have offered amendments, things that were taken to a vote, did not get enough support to give even an inkling to any of us that it's worth expending the time and the effort to try to do anything further with this bill.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time, Senator Chambers. Thank you, Senator Stuthman as well. Senator Beutler, on AM1773. Is Senator Beutler on the floor? I do not see Senator Beutler. There are no further lights on. We're still on the Schrock amendment to the Brashear amendment. Further speakers? There are no lights on. Senator Schrock, you're recognized to close.