

available to those individuals is ridiculous, so my efforts working with the industry are to try to get the industry to basically ante up the cost of the devices so that they then can be distributed by this commission that Senator Haberman talked about and the Commission for the Hearing Impaired so I want to see them to continue to buy in to a greater extent in this program, you're absolutely right that they could very well absorb the cost themselves. This is a straightforward approach on my part in terms of paying for it as we go, but that probably is the policy question and you, as always, have touched on it without too much maneuvering.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Hall. I would just like to add that I do not see among the proponents any members of the industry...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...I would have hoped they would be there in full force and about four abreast and ten deep promoting this industry or this idea. I see that Mr. Osland, Nebraska Telephone Association, is neutral on it, but I would just hope that members of this body who were so adamantly concerned with the benefits of telephone deregulation will find that those benefits do not necessarily trickle down to the people whom Senator Hall is attempting to serve here and that when they do become available to those individuals, it almost has to be by legislative mandate. So I guess I'm a little bit surprised, Senator Hall, that the industry is willing to allow legislative encroachment in this area after having fought so valiantly and, I might add, well, just valiantly, I'll let it go at that, for deregulation. But let this be a lesson to all of us that when a real need is discovered out there and a service has been determined to be lacking, then once again this body will act in the role that the Public Service Commission acted in for many years and if this body does not do so, then that need is not going to be met. That's the end of my editorial for today. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Hall, would you like to close on your amendment, please?

SENATOR HALL: Just, Mr. President, members, I would urge the body to adopt LB 129 into the current LB 240. Thank you.