

elect to use that \$250,000 to...to get into the business and as a...and the rates that they charge would be reflective of the fact that they've invested \$250,000 of their profits to get into the business and maybe the small heating and air conditioning guy doesn't have that profit from another, as you say, regulated industry. Are we addressing that part...are we saying you cannot use that profit to get into the service business by charging lower rates than would be the normal market rate?

SENATOR HALL: Well, to an extent, yes. To an extent, no. What I'm saying is, we are not in any way, shape or form, especially through the committee amendments, saying that gas companies cannot compete on a service basis. What we're saying is is that they cannot set their rates in order to allow them to go below what the market is out there. In other words, use the...the luxury...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...that they have of a regulated industry that they're locked into, that being the gas sales that they make, to allow them to...to compete below the floor against the independents who are out there in the service area...

SENATOR ASHFORD: All right.

SENATOR HALL: ...whether it be service, or purchase of appliances.

SENATOR ASHFORD: All right, let me just, very briefly...I'm not sure I...I think I see the difference. I'll probably move...vote to advance the bill today, but I do...I really do have some questions that get...going back to my original point, should we be getting into the market, and if we are, how are we getting into the market, and are we...are we dis...disincentivizing businesses from using, even though they may be regulated, using their profits to get into another business, and is that, does that make good economic sense? I guess those are questions that I have.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Senator Hall, you're next.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members. I would just...Senator Ashford, I can tell you between now and Select