

SENATOR BROWN: Yes.

SENATOR VRTISKA: Senator Brown, in looking at the bill and also reviewing some of the material that came from a member of the Public Service Commission, I've got a couple of questions I think that maybe you can help me with. First of all, in reading through some of the material that was furnished, and, obviously, the Journal Star has indicated some of the things that they do and that they probably wouldn't need to do, but I have a question about a couple of things. First of all, I understand it'd appear that perhaps the Department of Ag can handle like grain elevators and those kinds of things, but one of the things that I'm curious about is, for example, in communications and telephones and those things, who would you...what would be your idea of who might take over the regulation of those industries?

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Brown.

SENATOR BROWN: Well, at this point, I would like to say that my ideas would be like every one of your ideas. I have no companion statutory bill that would make any changes in any of the current statutes that talk about the roles and responsibility of the Public Service Commission, and so if we were going to talk about changes, any of those changes would come to this floor, would be voted on. We would not be throwing the baby out with the bathwater, to speak, in terms of those statutes that we believe protect...provide consumer protection or legitimate safety concerns. Yes, I probably do have some ideas about ways that we could restructure the agency in a more efficient manner, and possibly have it more focused on telecommunications, which is still an issue that is largely to the state to regulate and has not been preempted by the federal government, and it's certainly a very complicated issue. In a few years, we may want to have an agency that deals primarily with the Internet and the kinds of issues that there might be around, access to that kind of technology. So...but I just, I don't want to dismiss your question because I think it's a very valid question, but whatever would happen would happen as a result of the actions in this body and not as a result of anything that transpires because of the constitutional amendment, because the constitutional amendment only takes the language out of the constitution, and the statutes that are in place would remain there until we determine that those