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well. The last thing I want to address, and this certainly is a plug for the Public Service Commission, some of you know that my wife was general counsel at the Public Service Commission until very recently. She was an attorney there for several years, and then she was general counsel of the Commission. And let me tell you, four or five years ago when this body, this very body, discussed doing away with the Public Service Commission, they were doing a fraction of the work they're doing now. In 1996, a huge event took place. Congress said, open up the markets to competition. US West, you no longer have a monopoly. Aliant, you no longer have a monopoly. And once that happened, the dam broke. The water came rushing in, and let me tell you about the dockets that the Public Service Commission just...just for a little information here; '93-94, this is a fiscal year, July to July, they had 78 dockets; '94-95, 125; '95-96, 157; '96-97, now the act has been passed, 210; '97-98, 254. It's the same number of people, the same number of staff, in some cases fewer staff, and they're doing literally, 78 to 254, that's more than three times the work in just a couple of years. Why? Because Congress said, open the markets to competition.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR BRUNING: And competition is going to be a fantastic thing for our constituents. It's going to bring lower prices. It's going to bring more innovation, better services. If you live in the Omaha market, you know there's competition. There is three, four, five companies trying to compete. Prices are coming down. US West is becoming more innovative in what they are doing. It's benefitting everybody. Even out in the rural areas, competition, if it comes, and it is going to come slower out there because people are less likely...companies are less apt to compete in those areas, but it's going to...it's going to help this entire state. But let me tell you, the Public Service Commission, these are hardworking people. I mean, I've sat through a couple dockets over there, literally 7 a.m. to 5 or 6 p.m., kind of mind-bending stuff that just...it is...it is hard to work that hard for that long. At least here we get a break. We can go to lunch and, you know, think about something else for now and then. At the commission, I mean it is...it is a hardworking group of people.