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Transcriber's Office

February 11, 1999 LB 514

Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bruning. The Chair recognizes Senator Beutler.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Lieutenant Governor, members of the Legislature, I'd like to extend my exchange with Senator Kristensen, if he would yield, to some extent here.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Kristensen, would you yield?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Kristensen, and I should say also by way of preface...preface that I very much appreciate all the work that has gone into this, and I think it's a heck of a good bill too. And, hopefully, it will move us along in the right direction. To me, the right direction, and whether we're moving in the right direction, it depends on a number of things, but, certainly, high on my list is moving to a system where the penetration rate, that is where the households who have telephones and can afford to have telephones is just as high under the new system or higher than was the case under the old system. That's kind of the benchmark in my mind, at least, that I look at. And I understand that the benchmark is very high because we've done well in the past, and I understand that at least for the immediate future, given Senator Kristensen's explanation of some balancing to be done between the access rate problem and the subsidy problem, that it is probably not possible in the short term, at least, to say that the penetration rate shall get to "x" percent of households by such and such a date. But starting again from that perspective though, or from that benchmark, is...there is nothing in statute, I know, is there anything in the PSC's rule and regulation that sets that as a standard or goal? In other words, I understand what you said about quality service and the fact that that language should move us in the direction, very much in the direction of that goal, and I assume that the historic psychology of the state and of the commission itself would naturally tend to move us towards that goal, but is there anything in writing in the rules and regulations? Will there be a point in time when it might be possible to put such a