

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 6, 1999

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his committee will help do this summer. That is a much larger step, a much bigger change, than what's being proposed here. What's being proposed here is essentially the status quo with some safety concerns added in. What you're proposing may be something to think about, but I think it would require a great deal more consideration.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Okay. Senator Bruning, thank you very much.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute. Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Crosby, you're recognized to speak on the Bruning amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Mr. President and members. I've been paying attention here because one of the witnesses at your hearing, Paul, was...represents some private contractors and so on and does think this restricts competition, so that's why I've been...and if...Senator Bruning, are you going to address that? If you would address that once more, I would really appreciate it. You can have the time. I want to be sure that I understand why certain witnesses who came in and testified against this bill thinks it restricts competition.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Would you yield, Senator Bruning? Was that a question?

SENATOR BRUNING: I will yield, Senator, and, Senator Hartnett, I'll yield you some time here in just a moment. Senator Crosby, I understand your concern and what Senator Beutler has discussed as well and, again, I think about the balancing...the balancing between the public safety and competition. Essentially, the status quo here allows some sort of regulated monopolies in all cases. Lincoln Electric System, for example, in the electric industry has a very defined service territory that it serves and it's a regulated monopoly. The natural gas industry works the same way. There isn't a great deal of competition on the retail side. The competition is mostly on the wholesale side as those molecules are being sent through the pipes. So, until Congress allows the deregulation of the gas industry on a nationwide basis, I think this is a way of managing the status quo and managing it in the public interest so that there...the safety of people is taken care of. Does that answer your question,