

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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more and more governmental subdivisions in the private sector. So keep this in mind. My prediction is that next year this is a very difficult issue for this body, because of the fact that our governmental subdivisions are going to say, we need this revenue that we're now getting from this utility or that utility. So I encourage each of you to think about how you feel about whether or not public entities should be able to be in the business that a private company can provide. With that, Mr. Clerk, I'd like to withdraw this amendment.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Bruning. Senator Landis, on the Bruning amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: (Microphone malfunction) ...advancement of the bill, if I could.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you. This is a perfect example of why Senator Bromm has brought order from chaos here, because I want to do the other half of the...the bookend of the argument we just had. Senator Bruning was saying it would be a mistake to allow public entities into the telephone business and, frankly, this...the Bromm amendment allows the Public Service Commission to regulate any such happening and so, in that sense, we are not lowering the gates and permitting that to happen. Why, on the other hand, would I object to what would have been the Bruning amendment and why is that all the more reason why LB 150, in its current shape, good legislation? Let me take the hypothetical that Jon gave us, which was Senator Janssen and his grocery store, and shouldn't government stay out of the business of providing groceries when there are well-run grocery stores. And the answer probably is, okay, that makes perfect sense to me. On the other hand, we do distribute food through the government to people that are starving. Now should the government not get into the business when people are starving of distributing food, and of disaster relief, waiting for the private sector to come back in, in time? No. Why? Because there's been a market breakdown. The market hasn't worked. And, frankly, there are places in this state where the market has broken down. You have situations in which schools cannot get the Internet because their local private company will not run the appropriate fiber