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a situation where two companies have their own individual piping system. Isn't that true?

SENATOR BRUNING: I'm sorry, Senator, I didn't hear your question, please.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The question is, isn't that true?

SENATOR BRUNING: (Laugh) If you said it, Senator, I'm sure it is.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, so each company has it's own piping system. How is that going to cost a ratepayer more money? If Company A and Company B each runs a pipe into an area and the ratepayer decides to deal with Company A, how is the fact that Company B has a pipe there going to cost more money to the ratepayer who chooses Company A?

SENATOR BRUNING: Senator, for example, if the Metropolitan Utilities District has a capital budget of \$20 million and they decide they're going to double pipe out into Sarpy County and so that capital budget is raised to \$25 million, the rates necessarily go up. Which means all of us, all of you, I should say, in the city of Omaha, end up paying more. Your rates go up to cover that capital budget that doesn't need to be there. There's already a service provider in these areas.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Do you think that that rate increase that would be necessary, and I'm presuming what you say is true, would be ongoing? Or once the amount that was necessary to be spent to lay the pipe had been taken care of, there could be a reduction in the rates. Isn't that possible?

SENATOR BRUNING: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So it's not going to ultimately cost the ratepayers more. And let's say Company A is able to offer this, whatever it is, whichever of these services it is. If Company A could offer it at a lower rate than Company B, maybe the ratepayers for "A" wouldn't mind a little upward blip temporarily and then a reduction.