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LB 312, 645

more private security firms, we ought to begin to cut back the number of police officers there are in every city, reduce the number of state troopers that are on the state payroll, and as private industry begins to do any kind of service which right now is done by the government or governmental entities or agencies, we should immediately take from those governmental agencies or services the things that they perform. That makes no sense whatsoever. Many times we need oversight. We have public power. The Tennessee Valley Authority is no longer called a communist or socialist operation, except by some of those people who are trapped in a time warp. When I look on page 4 of the compromise amendment, as it has been described, I see where this task force is to look at private sector investment in networks for the provision or providing of such services. I would say "providing." That's just a peculiarity of mine. When I see concern with shareholder equity on page 5, I don't know whether shareholder equity relates to equity among shareholders who hold shares in competing entities, or if the state has an obligation to determine what course of action it will take, based on the interests of shareholders who are trying to make a profit. Those who provide services for money are interested in profit, and we know it, and they are interested in giving the maximum amount of profit to their shareholders. That's why, when we talk about MUD and these private gas suppliers, you have one operation which is supposed to work in the best interests of the public, and the other which clearly is working in the best interests of its shareholders, its stockholders, and they will cut corners and do anything else they can to make as much money for their shareholders and stockholders, and the public be darned. That has always been the attitude of business. When we look at LB 312 that was just moved, and the Governor is eager to sign, a hole, as Senator Beutler pointed out, has been dug and the public is going to be harmed by it, but that makes the Legislature no difference, as long as they're giving a benefit and a boon to private businesses which can provide jobs to senators, provide contributions to senators, but are not doing anything of significance for the public. They don't want to guarantee a living wage, they don't want to guarantee healthcare, they don't even want to give information. But the Legislature, like trained...