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pays attention is aware of that. I know that these private, for-profit, investor-owned operations don't want any competition from anybody. Big ones would like to run the little ones out of business. If they can't run them out, they'd like to absorb them. If they can't completely absorb them, they'd like to merge and take over. So we know how profit-seeking operations function, but their only purpose is not to serve the public, but to make as much profit as possible. And that's why I can be charged for long distance service which I don't even use. If the government was providing the service, while I'm here I could do something about that. I do not want these private, investor-owned operations to get a leg up and ban, in effect, the state from even being in a position to try to do something that will benefit the public. I'm not going to take the word of the profit takers that they're the only ones who are capable of providing a service to the public. In fact, the louder they say it, the more I doubt them. You know why? Because the closer you strike to the nest the louder the snakes begin to hiss. And I hear a lot of hissing out there in the lobby, and I'm not, for one, going to stand here and let that happen. And all of you, who've been talking to me on the q.t. about these private companies and the influence they have, stand up and say it on the mike like I will or do like they say at those weddings, shut up and don't talk to me about it anymore. I do the heavy lifting around here because I believe in what I believe in, but I have so many barnacles and hangers-on who will come to me and they know that I will so they say, I can sit back and say nothing. Well, you'll get what you ought to get. I'm not going to make Senator Brashear take this bill to cloture. You all ought to be saying something, but that's what you're hoping that I'll do, isn't it? And that might be what some of you expected me to do, isn't it? This is an issue of broad concern to the public. This is one where it should not be subject to what the media...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...will characterize as a filibuster. But if there's one person fighting it, it can be characterized the way they want to characterize it. And if I'm the only one who has these concerns, let the public be darned and let them come to