1	BEFORE THE WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION							
2	COMMISSION							
3	In the Matter of Determining) the Proper Carrier Classifi-) DOCKET NO. TG-920304							
4	cation of:) VOLUME II							
5	ENOCH ROWLAND d/b/a KLEENWELL)							
6	BIOHAZARD AND GENERAL ECOLOGY) PAGES 190-316 CONSULTANTS)							
7	<u> </u>							
8	A hearing in the above matter was held on							
9	June 11, 1992 at 9:30 a.m., at 1313 West Meeker, Kent,							
10	Washington, before Administrative Law Judge LISA A.							
11	ANDERL. Second S							
12								
13	The parties were present as follows:							
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15	ENOCH ROWLAND d/b/a KLEENWELL BIOHAZARD							
16	ENOCH ROWLAND d/b/a KLEENWELL BIOHAZARDY. AND GENERAL ECOLOGY CONSULTANTS, by JAMES T. JOHNSON, Attorney at Law, Two Union Square, Suite 3000, 601							
17	Union Street, Seattle, Washington, 98101-2324.							
18	RABANCO COMPANIES, by RICHARD A. FINNIGAN,							
19	Attorney at Law, 1201 Pacific Avenue, Suite 1900 Tacoma, Washington, 98402.							
20	WASHINGTON WASTE MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION, by							
21	JAMES SELLS, Special Counsel, 510 Washington Avenue, Bremerton, Washington, 98310.							
22	RYDER DISTRIBUTION RESOURCES, INC., by BOYD							
23	HARTMAN, Attorney at Law, 11000 Main, Bellevue, Washington, 98004.							
24	Rebecca S. Cain							
25	Court Recorder ORIGINAL							

1	APPEARANCES (Continued)
2	AMERICAN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT
3	CORPORATION, by DAVID W. WILEY, Attorney at Law, 1700 Bellevue Place, 10500 N.E. 8th Street, Bellevue, Washington, 98004.
4	CLARK COUNTY DISPOSAL, INC., AND BUCHMANN
5	SANITARY SERVICES, INC., by CINDY HORENSTEIN, Attorney at Law, 900 Washington Street, Suite 900, Vancouver,
6	Washington 98660.
7	WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION, by STEVEN W. SMITH, Assistant Attorney
8	General, 1400 South Evergreen Park Drive Southwest, Olympia, Washington, 98504.
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1	I N D E X								
2	WITNESS: PROF. DEMPSEY	DIRECT 195	232	REDIRECT	RECROSS 285	EXAM			
3 4			254 270 275						
5			276						
6	MR. BURTON	288	302 306	313					
7			308						
8	EXHIBIT	MARKED	ADMIT	TED					
9	30	195	199						
10	31 32	195 298	315 302						
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1 PROCEEDINGS

9:30 a.m.

- JUDGE ANDERL: The hearing will come to
- 4 order.
- 5 This is the second day of hearing in Docket
- 6 TG-920304. Today's date is June 11, 1992, and we are
- 7 convened at the Commission hearing room in Kent,
- 8 Washington.
- 9 Let's go ahead and take appearances at this
- 10 time. You don't have to state your address if it has
- 11 not changed since the first hearing session in this
- 12 matter. Mr. Smith?
- MR. SMITH: Your Honor, Steven W. Smith,
- 14 Assistant Attorney General, appearing for the
- 15 Commission.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Johnson?
- 17 MR. JOHNSON: James D. Johnson, appearing
- 18 for Kleenwell.
- 19 JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Hartman?
- 20 MR. HARTMAN: Boyd Hartman for Ryder
- 21 Distribution Resources, Inc.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Finnigan?
- 23 MR. FINNIGAN: Rick Finnigan for Sure-Way
- 24 Medical Services, formerly Rabanco Medical Waste
- 25 Services.

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- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Sells?
- MR. SELLS: Thank you, if Your Honor,
- 3 please, James Sells for protestant, Washington Waste
- 4 Management Association.
- 5 MR. WILEY: Your Honor, David W. Wiley for
- 6 protestant, American Environmental Management
- 7 Corporation.
- 8 MS. HORENSTEIN: Your Honor, Cindy
- 9 Horenstein, representing Clark County Disposal, Inc.
- 10 and Buchmann Sanitary Service.
- JUDGE ANDERL: When we were last convened,
- 12 I believe we agreed that we would start today with
- your witness, Mr. Smith. So unless there are any
- 14 preliminary matters before that we can go ahead with
- 15 that.
- MR. SMITH: Thank you, Your Honor. I'll
- 17 call Professor Paul Dempsey, please.
- 18 Whereupon,
- 19 PROFESSOR PAUL DEMPSEY
- 20 having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness
- 21 herein and was examined and testified as follows:
- 22 MR. SMITH: Your Honor, I predistributed
- 23 two documents perhaps I could have marked next in
- 24 line.
- JUDGE ANDERL: All right. I'll mark the

- 1 multi-page resume as Exhibit No. 30, and the
- 2 Administrative Law Review article as Exhibit No. 31.
- 3 (Marked Exhibits 30 and 31.)
- 4 MR. SMITH: Thank you, Your Honor.

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- 6 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 7 BY MR. SMITH:
- 8 Q. Would you please state your name and give
- 9 us your business address?
- 10 A. I'm Paul Steven Dempsey. My business
- 11 address is the University of Denver College of Law,
- 12 1900 Olive Street, Denver, Colorado, 80220.
- 13 Q. And in what capacity are you employed at
- 14 the University of Denver College of Law?
- 15 A. I am a professor of law and director of the
- 16 transportation law program.
- Q. And Professor Dempsey, where did you
- 18 receive your undergraduate degree?
- 19 A. The University of Georgia.
- 20 O. In what area?
- 21 A. Journalism.
- Q. Do you hold any other degrees?
- 23 A. Yes, I have a J.D. from the University of
- 24 Georgia as well. I also have a Master of Law degree
- from George Washington University, and a Doctor of

- 1 Civil Laws Degree from McGill University.
- 2 Q. Do you have any other formal training?
- 3 A. Yeah, well, I studied also at Georgetown
- 4 University Law School, at the Law and Economics
- 5 Institute for Law Professors at Dartmouth College.
- 6 I've attended a multitude of seminars in continuing
- 7 legal education programs, or taught at them.
- Q. And would that training appear in what has
- 9 been marked for identification as Exhibit 30?
- 10 A. My resume, yes.
- 11 Q. Professor Dempsey, are you licensed to
- 12 practice law in any jurisdiction?
- 13 A. I am. I'm actively licensed in Colorado.
- 14 I'm also inactively licensed in the District of
- 15 Columbia and the State of Georgia.
- 16 O. In your capacity at the University of
- 17 Denver College of Law, do you specialize in any
- 18 particular area?
- 19 A. I specialize in transportation law as
- 20 director of its program.
- Q. Could you briefly tell us something about
- 22 the College of Law's transportation law program?
- 23 A. The University of Denver began offering
- 24 continuing legal education in transportation about 20
- years ago in cooperation with what was then the Motor

- 1 Carrier Lawyers Association, what is today the
- 2 Transportation Lawyers Association. That has been a
- 3 successful program. We have continued since. We
- 4 hold it alternatively in San Francisco and Washington
- 5 D.C. in the fall of each year.
- In the mid 1970's, we took over publication
- of the Transportation Law Journal, which had
- 8 previously been published by Osgoode Hall Law School
- 9 in Canada. At that time, we established a separate
- 10 educational program in transportation law for our
- 11 students enrolled in the J.D. program, and I was
- 12 appointed director of that program in 1979 after
- having left service in the federal government in two
- 14 agencies that regulated transportation there and
- 15 where I have remained since.
- 16 The students have a variety of courses from
- 17 which to choose. This is one of our specialized
- 18 programs. We're a very large law school. We're
- 19 about the twelfth or thirteenth largest law school in
- the United States. We have other programs in natural
- 21 resources law, international law, business planning
- 22 and advocacy skills.
- Q. Do you have any relationship to the -- or
- 24 with the <u>Transportation Law Journal</u>?
- 25 A. I'm the faculty editor of that article.

- 1 Q. Do you have any other professional
- 2 experience in the area of transportation and
- 3 transportation regulation?
- 4 A. Yes, after I graduated from law school in
- 5 1975, I went to work for the Interstate Commerce
- 6 Commission, remained there for two years when I left
- 7 there and went to work for the Civil Aeronautics
- 8 Board and worked there for two years until 1979.
- 9 At the Interstate Commerce Commission we
- were regulating trucks, motors carriers and busses.
- 11 At the Civil Aeronautics Board, we were deregulating,
- 12 rather enthusiastically, the airline industry.
- 13 In the early part of the Reagan
- 14 Administration, I was also invited back to serve as a
- 15 legal advisor to the Chairman of the ICC, Reese
- 16 Taylor. That was in, I believe, 1981-82.
- 17 Q. And I referred to it briefly, I might as
- 18 well move for its entry now. Do you have before you,
- or are you familiar with what's been marked for
- 20 identification as Exhibit 30?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. And is that a resume of your educational
- and professional experience?
- 24 A. Yes, and my publications.
- MR. SMITH: Your Honor, I would move for

- 1 admission of Exhibit 30.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Any objections to that
- 3 exhibit being made part of the record?
- 4 MR. JOHNSON: No, I have no objection.
- 5 JUDGE ANDERL: Hearing no objection,
- 6 Exhibit 30 will be admitted.
- 7 (Admitted Exhibit No. 30.)
- 8 BY MR. SMITH:
- 9 Q. Now Professor Dempsey, you referred to your
- 10 publication. Have you authored any books on the
- 11 topic of transportation regulation?
- 12 A. Yes, <u>Law and Economic Regulation and</u>
- 13 Transportation in 1986; the Law and Foreign Policy in
- 14 <u>International Aviation</u> in '87; the <u>Social and</u>
- Economic Consequences of Deregulation in 1989; The
- 16 Airline -- let's see, what's it called -- Flying
- 17 Blind, The Failure of Airline Deregulation in 1990,
- and I have a book coming out this summer called
- 19 <u>Airline Deregulation and Laissez-faire Mythology</u>.
- 20 And I've got a couple of more books in progress.
- 21 Q. And would those publications appear in
- 22 Exhibit 30?

£ 1, .

- 23 A. They do.
- Q. Have you published articles on the subject
- of transportation regulation?

- 1 A. Yes, quite a number of them, both in law
- 2 reviews and in popular periodicals, trade periodicals
- 3 and economics journals.
- Q. And do those articles appear in Exhibit 30?
- 5 A. Yes, all of the most recent ones.
- 6 Q. Have you lectured or made presentations
- 7 regarding transportation regulation?
- 8 A. Yeah, I have kind of a healthy speaking
- 9 commitment, series of commitments. I guess I
- 10 probably speak, on average, of about ten or 15 times
- 11 a year around the country to transportation
- 12 organizations.
- 13 Q. And have you appeared as an expert witness
- or consultant in matters regarding transportation
- 15 regulation?
- 16 A. I have.
- 17 Q. And can you tell us what those occasions
- were, or what bodies you appeared before?
- 19 A. I've appeared before the Public Utilities
- 20 Commissions of Colorado, California, Ohio, and the
- 21 Motor Carrier Commission of British Columbia; the
- 22 state legislatures, or transportation committees of
- 23 the state legislatures of Michigan, Texas, Colorado;
- the relevant transportation committees of the United
- 25 States House of Representatives and the United States

- 1 Senate, and the Canadian Senate as well. I don't
- 2 know if I've mentioned I've also appeared before the
- 3 Pennsylvania Public Utilities Commission.
- 4 Q. Have any of your presentations or
- 5 publications dealt specifically with the subject of
- 6 transportation deregulation?
- 7 A. A great many of them have.
- 8 Q. Have any of your presentations or
- 9 publications dealt with market entry regulation in
- 10 the transportation industry?
- 11 A. Yes.
- 12 Q. Could you tell us what you mean by "market
- 13 entry regulation"?
- 14 A. Regulation of entry traditionally involves
- 15 the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience
- 16 and Necessity to an applicant seeking to enter a
- 17 particular market. That requires an assessment, both
- of competition factors, general public interest
- 19 factors and fitness of the applicant. Once their
- 20 certificate is issued, it also involves a continuing
- 21 supervision of both the carrier's fitness and its
- 22 obligation to serve the public as a common carrier,
- 23 to provide non-discriminatory service at a just and
- 24 reasonable price.
- 25 Q. Have you dealt with the subject of rate

- 1 regulation in any of your lectures or publications?
- 2 A. Yes, I have.
- 3 Q. Now, Professor Dempsey, in preparation for
- 4 this hearing, have you become familiar with the
- 5 statutes and rules administered by the Washington
- 6 Utilities and Transportation Commission regarding
- 7 solid waste collecting companies?
- 8 A. Yes, I have.
- 9 Q. And does that regulatory scheme include any
- 10 limitations on market entry?
- 11 A. It does. It includes the issuance of a
- 12 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to an
- applicant, and it seems to include a presumption that
- 14 there will be only a single certificate issued unless
- 15 the existing carrier is, in some sense, inadequate.
- 16 Q. And are you aware that Kleenwell Biohazard
- is collecting infectious waste in the state of
- 18 Washington and disposing that waste in California in
- 19 order to avoid the regulation of the Washington
- 20 Commission?
- 21 A. That is my understanding, yes.
- 22 Q. Let me ask you, as a general matter,
- 23 whether free market entry leads to any adverse
- 24 consequences in the transportation industry?
- 25 A. It appears to have at the interstate level.

- 1 It has tended to cause a problem in terms of
- declining productivity, lower load factors, an anemic
- 3 level of profitability, inadequate profits for the
- 4 industry as a whole; a higher level of bankruptcies,
- 5 a higher failure rate; a declining ability to either
- 6 provide resources for new equipment or to maintain
- 7 existing equipment adequately, and an inability to
- 8 pay labor the wages that have been traditionally paid
- 9 in the industry; all of that causing a deterioration
- in the level of service, particularly for small
- 11 communities, and a higher transportation price for
- service for small communities and small shippers.
- 13 Q. Can the deregulation of rates lead to
- 14 negative consequences in the transportation industry?
- 15 A. Yes.
- 16 MR. JOHNSON: I'm going to object to the
- 17 question unless it were sought for the witness'
- 18 opinion. I don't think he's in a position to make a
- 19 statement of anything other than his own opinion.
- 20 MR. SMITH: Your Honor, I can rephrase the
- 21 question and we'll get into empirical evidence
- 22 shortly.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Okay.
- 24 BY MR. SMITH:
- Q. Professor Dempsey, in your opinion, can the

- deregulation of rates lead to negative consequences
- 2 in the transportation industry?
- 3 A. Yes, the traditional requirements of both
- 4 non-discriminatory rates and just and reasonable
- 5 rates were imposed to make sure that rates are
- 6 precisely that; that there's not discrimination
- 7 between larger and smaller users of the system,
- 8 between urban and rural users of the system.
- 9 Elimination of those controls puts the rate making
- 10 apparatus at the whims of the individual carriers who
- 11 may have market power in certain markets, and certain
- individual shippers who have monopsony power where
- they tender large volumes of freight. This puts
- pressure on small communities and small shippers,
- that they pay a higher portion of the fixed costs of
- 16 operation.
- 17 Also, the rate making structure works in
- 18 two directions: by assuring a just and reasonable
- 19 rate for consumers. There's also a mandate in the
- 20 regulatory charter that in exchange for providing
- 21 common carrier service ubiquitously throughout their
- 22 service territories, the regulatory authority will
- assure that a reasonable return on investment is
- 24 earned so that we don't have the problem of a high
- 25 turnover in the identity of carriers, or the

- 1 inability of carriers approaching bankruptcy to
- 2 maintain their operations in a safe and effective
- 3 manner.
- 4 We also have placed into the regulatory
- 5 structure, embraced within the just and reasonable
- 6 rate obligations, a prohibition against the
- 7 extraction of monopoly rents in markets where
- 8 carriers have market power, and a prohibition on the
- 9 down side of predatory pricing to drive smaller
- 10 companies out of business, and you see this now in
- the airline industry, for example. Most people
- 12 understand that. People who begin or end their trips
- at a monopoly hub pay prices, according to the GAO,
- which are 21 percent higher than they could pay in
- 15 competitive markets. That's because of the monopoly
- 16 characteristics, or the monopoly opportunities which
- 17 exist for airlines which control those hubs, and yet
- we know, or at least it has strongly been suggested
- 19 in the recent price wars that American Airlines
- inaugurated, that was motivated by desire to engage
- 21 in predatory activity with respect to smaller and
- 22 weaker carriers and drive them out of the market.
- Rate regulation tends to avoid those kinds
- of consequences. It avoids a parity and equity, and
- 25 the rate structure for larger and smaller users,

- 1 urban and rural users, and it provides a more stable
- 2 and healthy economic regime for carriers.
- 3 Q. Have any of your publications described
- 4 these consequences that you've just referred to?
- 5 A. Yes, a number of them have.
- 6 Q. Do you have a copy of this?
- 7 A. I do.
- Q. Professor Dempsey, do you have a copy of
- 9 what's been marked for identification as Exhibit 31?
- 10 A. If it's an article from the Administrative
- 11 Law Review that I wrote called Running on Empty, I do
- 12 have.
- 13 Q. And I take it you recognize that document?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 Q. Professor Dempsey, I would ask you to walk
- 16 us through this -- well, tell me what this document
- 17 shows, in general terms.
- 18 A. It is an attempt to assess the theory of
- deregulation as it has been applied to trucking, the
- 20 economic rationales for it, the free market idealogy
- and how it has been played out in this industry,
- 22 beginning in the late 1970's and then culminating in
- 23 the Motor Carrier Act of 1980, and with
- 24 administrative deregulation subsequently thereto in
- 25 the 1980's, and an attempt to explain what has

- occurred in this industry empirically since those
- 2 decisions were made.
- Q. And could you lead us through Exhibit 31
- 4 and show us the empirical results -- empirical
- 5 evidence of the consequences you have just described,
- 6 generally?
- 7 MR. JOHNSON: Your Honor, I'm going to
- 8 object to this question and to the witness going
- 9 through this document. It's quite obviously an
- indictment of deregulation as to whether or not it's
- 11 beneficial or not, but it doesn't address any issue
- 12 here. The question here is whether or not the laws
- 13 of the state of Washington, which attempt to regulate
- 14 the movement of medical waste, is constitutional or
- not, and it's not a question of desirability of
- 16 regulation or deregulation. The witness obviously
- has a bias. He's employed by an institution that
- 18 derives part of its support from transportation
- 19 lawyers who have an interest in preserving
- 20 regulation, and Exhibit 31 addresses the desirability
- of regulation. That's not an issue in this case, as
- 22 I see it.
- 23 MR. SMITH: Mr. Smith, would you like to
- 24 respond to that?
- 25 MR. SMITH: Yes, Your Honor. Kleenwell and

- 1 Mr. Johnson are asserting that they are exempt from
- 2 the UTC's jurisdiction, both as to market entry and
- 3 rates by virtue of the Commerce Clause of the Federal
- 4 Constitution. We are entitled to examine the effects
- 5 that claim of immunity would have on the Washington
- 6 regulatory scheme. One of the tests for determining
- 7 whether a state statute impermissibly burdens
- 8 interstate commerce is to examine the benefits
- 9 provided by the state scheme in balance with the
- impact on interstate commerce to see whether that
- impact is clearly excessive, and that's the relevance
- of this testimony and this exhibit; the question of
- 13 the benefits of market entry regulation and rate
- 14 regulation to the state of Washington.
- I would also point out that the <u>Medigen</u>
- 16 case, relied upon by Mr. Johnson in his opening
- 17 argument, that court went to a similar balancing
- 18 test. So the examination of the benefits of the
- 19 state regulatory scheme is directly relevant to the
- 20 Commerce Clause defense raised by Mr. Johnson.
- JUDGE ANDERL: I'll overrule the objection
- 22 and allow this witness to continue to testify.
- 23 THE WITNESS: Could I comment on the
- 24 allegation of bias?
- 25 JUDGE ANDERL: I don't think so. Mr.

- 1 Smith, if you want to ask questions about that.
- 2 MR. SMITH: Yes, I think Mr. Johnson will
- 3 have the opportunity to examine any bias he thinks
- 4 Professor Dempsey has on cross-examination.
- 5 BY MR. SMITH:
- 6 Q. But, Professor Dempsey, since the issue has
- 7 been raised, do you have any response to Mr.
- 3 Johnson's assertion that you're biased by virtue of
- 9 your relationship with the University of Denver
- 10 College of Law and their transportation section?
- 11 A. Yes, I do have a couple of comments, the
- 12 first comment is this: I have tenure. Any position
- 13 that I take is immune from any sort of retribution.
- 14 If the transportation law program were to cease to
- exist tomorrow, I would still have a job, and I do
- 16 very well. I also teach torts and constitutional law
- and I teach them pretty well, according to my
- 18 evaluations.
- 19 The other part of it, there is a phenomenon
- 20 of the politically correct on American colleges and
- 21 universities that you may be familiar with. It is
- driven, for some reason, by the left with Orwelient
- 23 passion in sort of remolding the vocabulary about
- 24 what kind of ideas are appropriate to be discussed.
- There's also the phenomenon of the economically

- 1 correct, and it seems to be driven by the right. And
- 2 there are certain views which are economically
- 3 correct, and among them is the notion that the free
- 4 market, unimpeded, ought to be the driving force on
- 5 the American landscape. I've chosen to assault that
- 6 conventional wisdom, and have taken, until very
- 7 recently -- have paid a price for that. So the
- 8 positions that I take, the conclusions that I've
- 9 reached, I think, have been reached honestly. They
- 10 have not been reached without having paid a price for
- 11 them because they assault the conventional wisdom.
- 12 And surely now, people are beginning to
- 13 realize that airline deregulation has some
- 14 significant problems. I was out on the front of that
- 15 issue before it became fashionable to be there, but I
- 16 -- you know, any allegation that somehow because my
- 17 employer has a relationship with the Bar Association
- 18 effects my conclusions, I think, is erroneous. We
- 19 have other people on the faculty who take an opposite
- 20 point of view, and they do so very well without any
- 21 sort of retribution.
- 22 Q. Professor Dempsey, returning to the prior
- question, could you show us or lead us through
- 24 Exhibit 31 in your discussion of the evidence that
- 25 deregulation in the transportation industry leads to

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2 One of the things that surprised me Α. Yes. 3 was that the proponents of deregulation argued that productivity would improve with deregulation; that 4 what we basically had was a situation where, by 5 6 regulation, we were forcing carriers to return with empty back-hauls, and deregulation would eliminate 7 8 the empty back-hauls. 9 Actually, what has occurred is that the 10 market has been flooded with new carriers. There are 11 about twice the number of certificated carriers today 12 than there were in 1980, and the amount of freight 13 has not appreciably increased. What that has 14 resulted in is a decline in energy efficiency and a

the kinds of consequences you have discussed?

here: The average load is down significantly, pre
and post-deregulation. The level of productivity by
a number of measures has declined under some, has
gone flat under others.

decline in equipment utilization. I've seen four

different studies, three of them are reported in

21 Professor Robert Gordon, who believes that 22 deregulation is a very good thing, has recently come 23 out with a paper in which he compares productivity 24 and the three modes of transportation that are 25 relevant, air, rail and trucking. And he finds that

- 1 rail productivity has gone up, but trucking
- 2 productivity has not and air productivity has not,
- 3 despite the pre-existing trend of improved
- 4 productivity.
- Now what that means is that the trucks that
- 6 are on the highway are traveling on the highway
- 7 emptier than they were before. There's a greater
- 8 input of labor and fuel into moving goods across the
- 9 United States. Now that, coupled with the fact that
- 10 carriers are competing very vigorously to take that
- empty space and fill it up, because empty space in
- 12 transportation is an instantly perishable commodity;
- if you can't sell it, you can't warehouse it either,
- 14 and therefore, there's an imperative to try to put
- something in the space in order to cover the marginal
- 16 cost of operation, the fuel and the labor inputs.
- What has happened is carriers have been
- 18 chasing the freight and pricing themselves in an
- unrealistic level trying to steal freight from each
- other. As a consequence, the profitability of the
- 21 industry -- if you turn to page 270, there's a chart
- 22 that shows profitability, and I rather like this
- chart because it goes back as early as 1973. These
- 24 are the operating margins for the largest carriers.
- Now the operating margins is what's left after you

- 1 pay all of your expenses except --
- MR. JOHNSON: Your Honor, I would like to
- 3 inject an objection based on the -- well, in that
- 4 this article, Exhibit 31, and the witness' testimony
- 5 obviously relates to the trucking industry generally.
- 6 And I suggest that perhaps the pre-regulation figures
- 7 he gave don't include a single medical waste hauler,
- 8 problems that are entirely different from the motor
- 9 carrier industry generally. And even in today's
- 10 list, the carriers in which he basis these
- 11 intentions, I doubt that they include any medical
- 12 waste haulers. This is -- what he's talking about
- 13 has no relevance to the medical waste industry.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Smith?
- MR. SMITH: Yes, Your Honor, it has
- 16 relevance to the subject of the benefits of market
- 17 entry regulation and the consequences of market entry
- deregulation. Before we are through, we will turn to
- 19 Professor Dempsey's opinion as to what he would
- 20 anticipate from a deregulation of those matters in
- 21 the case of the solid waste collecting in the state
- 22 of Washington.
- I think what Mr. Johnson is raising are
- 24 things that he can take up on cross-examination if he
- wishes to challenge the basis of any of Professor

- Dempsey's opinions or statements.
- 2 JUDGE ANDERL: The objection is overruled.
- Professor Dempsey, I believe we were in the
- 4 middle of an answer. Do you remember where you were?
- 5 THE WITNESS: I think I was talking about
- 6 this chart on page 270.
- 7 A. And we're talking here about operating
- 8 margin, which is after having paid all operating
- 9 expenses, except interest, taxes and profit, this is
- what's left. And in the 1973-79 period, the
- operating margin was a little over five percent. It
- wasn't real good, but, you know, it wasn't as bad as
- 13 it has been since we deregulated that industry. From
- 14 1980 to 1987 it fell to less than -- well, about 3.6
- 15 percent.
- Now I should add that the profit margin in
- 17 the airline industry, which has also been
- deregulated, fell very significantly. It fell 73
- 19 percent after 1978 to a margin of six-tenths of one
- percent, and that takes us up to 1988. That's the
- 21 first decade of deregulation there. And the airline
- 22 industry in the last two years has now lost all the
- 23 profit that it made since the Wright brothers flew at
- 24 Kitty Hawk, plus two billion dollars more, so that
- 25 these consequences -- and we could do the bus

- industry, too. The bus industry is in bankruptcy.
- We went from two carriers to one carrier.
- 3 Profitability has not been the strong point of
- 4 deregulation.
- If you take a look at page 272, we see the
- 6 profit margin of motor carriers, vis a vis all
- 7 manufacturers. There, too, we see that they have not
- 8 done as well as all manufacturers and have done
- 9 somewhat worse than all manufacturers, and still
- 10 subject to the same economic conditions as all
- 11 manufacturers, recession, inflation; all of the
- 12 economic circumstances in the nation are occurring
- with respect to all of these entities at the same
- 14 time.
- The operating margin of this industry, 3.6
- 16 percent, is significantly lower than that established
- 17 by the Interstate Commerce Commission as an
- 18 acceptable operating margin. They target a seven
- 19 percent operating margin as acceptable, and the
- 20 United Parcel Service companies earn a nine percent
- 21 operating margin. Now if you have this kind of
- 22 anemic profitability over any period of time, you're
- 23 going to end up with a high number of bankruptcies.
- 24 If you turn to page 271, you see the number
- of bankruptcies in the trucking industry has exceeded

- 1 more than a thousand a year, each and every year
- 2 since 1983, although the data are not here because
- 3 this was -- more recent data for 1989 and 1990 shows
- 4 that that number has gone up even more significantly.
- 5 In 1990, the number of bankruptcies reached 1,600,
- 6 which is an all time high.
- 7 Now if you take these two charts and put
- 8 them together, what you see is we've had a phenomenal
- 9 shake-out of the number of carriers, and the chart on
- 10 page 270 reflects the operating margin for the
- survivors; that is to say, one might argue, as the
- 12 Interstate Commerce Commission has under its pro-
- deregulation approach, that wiping out these
- inefficient carriers is good because what we're left
- with is efficient, strong companies. The truth of
- 16 the matter is the survivors are not particularly
- 17 healthy.
- Other merit measures of profitability, the
- 19 return on equity for deregulation for the trucking
- 20 industry, return on equity was about 15 percent. It
- was nearly identical to that of all manufacturers.
- 22 After deregulation it fell 41 percent to eight point
- eight percent, versus twelve point two percent for
- 24 all manufacturers. Return on investment also shows
- 25 this downward trend post-deregulation.

1 Operating ratio, which is kind of the flip 2 side of the operating margin chart -- if you'll look 3 at page 268 you'll see the operating ratios. 4 Basically, that's a percentage of operating costs, 5 excluding profit and interest, vis a vis operating 6 revenue. And the troublesome thing about this chart 7 on page 268 is that the threshold for bankruptcy is a 8 97 operating ratio, and you can see the industry is within a fraction -- the industry as a whole, the 9 survivors are within a fraction of the 97 target for 10 11 operating ratios. So, clearly, this has been an 12 industry which has suffered significantly in terms of 13 profitability, in terms of the large number of 14 bankruptcies. 15 We should compare bankruptcies in the 16 trucking industry to that of all manufacturers. 17 you turn to page 274, again we want to compare these 18 things because in the early 1980's, we did suffer a 19 recession, so we would have seen some increase 20 throughout the economy, although President Reagan 21 liked to remind us that the 1980's were the longest 22 sustained period of economic growth in the country's 23 history. Not for the trucking industry, and the 24 trucking industry failure rate has been much higher 25 post-deregulation than that of other industries,

although pre-deregulation, it was pretty close to it. 1 2 Now carriers facing bankruptcy have several alternatives. One of the things they try to do is go 3 4 to the banks and borrow money, and they tend to 5 leverage themselves very highly with debt. The other 6 thing they do is they go to labor and they say we 7 have to roll back your wages. If you turn to page 277, these are average wages in the industry, either 8 9 measured on a per mile basis or a per employee basis. 10 And the data post-1985 are consistent with the trend 11 that you see here. Basically, wages per mile or per employee have declined during this period. People 12 13 have different views as to whether labor is paid too 14 much or too little in this industry. I won't take a 15 position on that, but I will say that if an 16 individual who drives a truck wants to make the same 17 amount of money that he did pre-deregulation, he will 18 have to stay on the road more hours in order to make 19 that money. 20 Pages 28 -- well, I should add one other 21 thing about drivers. The number one cause of 22 accidents on the highway in commercial truck 23 operations is fatigue of drivers. The federal 24 government, the Department of Transportation, changed

its methodology for collecting data in 1985.

25

- 1 until 1985, we could see a progression in the
- 2 accident rate. Since they changed the methodology,
- 3 it's like comparing apples and oranges. We cannot
- 4 say conclusively that this has driven the accident
- 5 rate up; again, because the data are no good. But
- 6 various studies by the American Automobile
- 7 Association by the American Insurance Association,
- and by the Office of Technology Assessment have
- 9 concluded that the accident rates of the motor
- 10 carrier industry have increased faster than the rate
- 11 of truck miles traveled.
- We also know in the industry -- if you look
- 13 at pages 281, page 281 shows the average age of all
- 14 trucks on the highway. The industry driven by a
- wholly unsatisfactory level of profitability has not
- been able to re-equip with new trucks. The same
- impact has occurred under airline deregulation, I
- should tell you, where one-third of the commercial
- 19 fleet that we now fly exceeds the economic design
- 20 goals established by the manufacturers. We in the
- 21 United States now fly the oldest fleet of commercial
- 22 aircraft in the developed world. Ethiopia has a
- younger fleet of planes than we do in the United
- 24 States.
- Pages 282 and 283 takes a look at the

- 1 number of trucks 12 years and older, and the number
- of trucks 12 years or older vis a vis the total
- 3 trucks in use, and what they show is the fleet is
- 4 aging.
- 5 Page 284, we see maintenance expenditures
- 6 per mile, and we see that it has gone down since
- 7 1980; again driven by these other things, slow in
- 8 productivity, poor profitability, a higher failure
- 9 rate; carriers simply without the resources to
- 10 provide either maintenance or capital for new
- 11 equipment purposes. The industry is in a very bad
- 12 position.
- 13 If you think about the transportation
- 14 system as being part of our national infrastructure
- from a public policy perspective, this investment in
- our public infrastructure, a number of people believe
- 17 has a ripple effect on the impact of productivity
- 18 growth throughout our economy generally, and the
- 19 tragedy is that both the public and the private
- 20 sector has disinvested in the transportation arena
- 21 significantly over the past decade.
- 22 Now some of this translates in terms of
- pricing and in terms of service to small communities
- 24 and small shippers. The industry has been driven by
- 25 a couple of things: One is that there is a

- 1 phenomenon of monopsony or oligopsony power on behalf
- of large shippers. Large shippers are able, by
- 3 virtue of their vast volumes of freight, to extract a
- 4 price which is non-compensatory effectively; it
- 5 doesn't cover the fully allocated costs of
- 6 operations, and they do so on a take-it-or-leave-it
- 7 basis.
- 8 To give you some idea of what has been
- 9 going on in terms of pricing discrimination, the
- 10 Interstate Commerce Commission in the last decade
- 11 approved pricing increases of some 51 percent from
- 12 1983 to 1988. It is all rates --
- MR. JOHNSON: 1983 to what?
- 14 THE WITNESS: 1983 to 1988.
- 15 A. All rates, all general freight rates went
- up more than 50 percent. The discounts for the
- 17 largest shippers run up to 70 percent, which means
- 18 that they receive a price which is a lower than the
- 19 pre-deregulation price. Small shippers, however,
- often receive no discount at all, and to the extent
- 21 that they do receive a discount, they receive a
- 22 discount of between five and 15 percent, so it's
- 23 significantly less than that offered to large
- 24 shippers. Large shippers can do it because they have
- large volumes of freight. They have something known

- as monopsony or oligopsony power.
- 2 It has gotten so bad that the large
- 3 shippers are even demanding these rebates on
- 4 shipments shipped freight collect where the consignee
- 5 pays the freight bill. In other words, they're
- 6 demanding that the carrier rebate the discount on
- 7 freight collect consignee paid shipments where the
- 8 consignee gets no discount. This is a bit of fraud
- 9 being practiced on small businesses.
- Now since small businesses create 90
- 11 percent of the country's jobs, one would wonder
- whether any rational government would adopt a policy
- which would disadvantage the job creators in our
- 14 society. If job creation is at all important, if the
- unemployment rate is at all of consequence, then this
- 16 kind of impact, with respect to a major
- 17 infrastructure industry, is, in my view, distressing.
- 18 The other thing that occurs is that there
- 19 are lucrative and unprofitable traffic lanes. Urban
- areas generally are lower cost areas in many
- 21 instances, unless you're talking about Los Angeles
- 22 where you can't move your truck more than 15 miles an
- 23 hour because of the economies and densities which
- 24 exist in urban areas; therefore, there's been no
- 25 cream-skimming that goes on in the urban corridors

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2 Generally speaking, a number of studies have shown that service has declined in smaller 3 4 areas, and rates have increased in smaller areas, and 5 they've increased because of the absence of 6 regulatory control. They've also increased because 7 of, again, this problem of declining productivity. 8 There simply is not the volume the freight that once 9 existed that could fill up a fewer number of trucks 10 and allow these productivity savings to be passed on 11 to users of the system. 12 It is intrinsically more efficient to have 13 one full truck providing service to a smaller 14 community than two half empty trucks providing 15 service, just as it would be intrinsically less 16 costly to a society to have one telephone line 17 serving that community, or one electric line serving 18 that community.

leaving the smaller communities with less service.

transportation generally under deregulation, small communities have paid a very high price. A 130 small communities that were on the air transport map in 1978 no longer are. There are about 120 more that receive subsidies from the federal government for the provision of service. The Republican administrations

If you take a look at what's happened in

- have every year tried to eliminate those subsidies,
- but if they are eliminated, undoubtedly a significant
- 3 number of those communities will also drop off the
- 4 air transport map.
- 5 With the disintegration of the bus industry
- 6 under deregulation, 4,500 small communities fell off
- 7 the bus map. 900 had that service replaced. That's
- 8 a net loss of 3,400 communities. And the rail
- 9 industry, with its abandonment ability under the
- 10 Stagger's Rail Act, has dropped service to 1,200
- 11 small communities.
- 12 And in trucking, there are two studies I
- have seen: One focused on 11 western states and
- 14 revealed that 66 percent lost all general freight
- 15 trucking service; 38 percent in another study in
- 16 California lost all general freight trucking service,
- so that prices appear in rural communities to be
- 18 higher. Service appears to have deteriorated, and
- 19 the equity goals, which can only be advanced by
- government, have been abandoned under this process.
- Q. Professor Dempsey, you've been discussing
- 22 the effects of deregulation on haulers and on the
- 23 public in various sectors of the transportation
- 24 industry. Would you anticipate some or all of these
- 25 consequences if solid waste collection were

- 1 deregulated in the state of Washington?
- 2 A. I would believe -- I would anticipate the
- 3 same consequences, only they would be somewhat worse.
- 4 The ability of carriers to enjoy the economies of
- 5 density to provide service in urban and rural areas,
- 6 urban as well as rural areas, would be diminished by
- 7 cream-skimming. They would be denied lucrative
- 8 market opportunities with which to cover their fixed
- 9 cost of operation. There would be no regulatory
- 10 oversight to assure that carriers fulfilled any
- 11 notion of a common carrier responsibility to provide
- 12 service to less profitable, or perhaps non-
- profitable venues, and I think particularly of rural
- 14 areas. To the extent that service was provided to
- rural areas, it would undoubtedly be at a higher
- 16 price.
- 17 Now here's the twist. When we're talking
- about garbage or refuge, or medical waste, you have
- 19 to recognize that transportation has important
- 20 externalities with respect to the communities that it
- 21 serves and the shippers that it serves. It has
- 22 external costs and benefits. The existence of just
- and reasonable prices and ubiquitous service means
- that all communities, all regions, all shippers are
- linked to the circulatory system of the nation; that

- 1 they participate in the economic trade, which is
- 2 fostered by a vibrant capitalist system. Cutting
- 3 them off or inhibiting service in some ways has a
- 4 ripple effect economically; that it affects other
- 5 industries. This is the way the infrastructure is.
- 6 It's not in isolation. It is an integral part of the
- 7 nation's economy.
- The difference, when we're talking about
- 9 waste, is that it's not like tennis shoes. Tennis
- shoes have an economic value. There will be an
- 11 economic motive to have it transported to its market.
- 12 But when you're talking about waste, in most
- instances, if you're not talking about recyclables,
- 14 it has no economic value. In fact, it has a negative
- 15 economic value, because when you get it to
- destination, you have to pay to have it disposed of
- in a landfill, or a waste disposal facility of some
- 18 kind. It means that you don't realize any economic
- 19 gain by having it transported. You incur an economic
- loss; thus, the motive, absent the compelling force
- of government, is to dispose of it quickly and
- 22 cheaply.
- 23 It is the externality's problem of
- 24 pollution that we see in the magnificent essay
- 25 written by Garrett Hardin, The Tragedy of the

- 1 <u>Commons</u>. We all have an economic incentive to
- 2 externalize the cost of production. To put smoke
- 3 stack scrubbers on a smoke stack and keep the
- 4 carcinogens from entering the air is not in our
- 5 economic interests. It is in our economic interests
- 6 to externalize that cost.
- 7 When we're dealing with waste, it is
- 8 expensive to dispose of it properly; and yes, there
- 9 are some good samaritans who will dispose of it
- 10 properly because they have a conscience, because
- 11 they're good, God fearing members of the community.
- 12 But there are a great many people who are driven by
- 13 the economics of the business, and the economics of
- 14 the business drive the disposal entirely the wrong
- 15 direction. If the cost of transportation becomes
- 16 higher for smaller communities; if the level of
- 17 service becomes worse for smaller communities, then
- 18 there will be an enhanced incentive to dispose of the
- waste improperly, to bury it on private land or
- 20 public land, or do something with it.
- New Jersey, which is one of the few states
- 22 that does not regulate trucking, had syringes and
- 23 needles wash up on its shore. I don't know if there
- 24 is any correlation between the two, but the fact of
- 25 the matter is, the economics of disposing of this

- 1 kind of waste are such that it is -- it makes
- 2 economic sense, not social sense, but economic sense
- 3 to dispose of it in the cheapest way possible, and
- 4 that may well endanger not only the aesthetic beauty
- of the land it pollutes, but also the health and
- 6 safety of the people who come into contact with it.
- 7 Q. Professor Dempsey, can a regulatory scheme,
- 8 such as Washington has for the collection of solid
- 9 waste, including infectious waste, succeed in
- 10 providing universal service to both urban and rural
- 11 areas at non-discriminatory rates if some of the
- 12 entrants in that market are regulated as to rates,
- 13 service, safety and others are not?
- 14 A. No, it certainly cannot succeed if there
- are two groups of carriers; one which are regulated
- 16 and one which are not. The unregulated group will
- 17 engage in cream-skimming. They will go for the most
- 18 lucrative traffic depriving the established carriers,
- 19 who are, by the way, left with a common carrier
- 20 responsibility to provide their entire service
- 21 territories with just and reasonable rates with the
- 22 freight that is most attractive, the freight that is
- 23 easiest to pick up; the freight that is less costly
- 24 to transport, the freight that has a higher profit
- 25 margin. It will obliterate really the ability of the

- 1 regulated group to continue to provide that service.
- What you will likely see over time is that the
- 3 regulated group will themselves either go out of
- 4 business, or try to become part of the unregulated
- 5 group because they have -- you know, they have to
- 6 make a profit in order to survive. They're owned by
- 7 private investors, and they can't -- their ability to
- 8 make a profit in a deregulated scheme is going to be
- 9 significantly impeded.
- 10 Q. Does the Washington regulatory scheme, in
- 11 your opinion, promote non-discriminatory pricing in
- 12 the provision of waste collection service?
- 13 A. Yes, it does so explicitly. It requires
- 14 that all rates charged shall be non-discriminatory;
- 15 that they shall be just and reasonable. It imposes a
- 16 common carrier obligation that carriers provide
- 17 service throughout their service territories, and it
- 18 regulates the safety of these companies providing
- 19 this service.
- 20 Q. Does that statutory scheme promote economic
- 21 efficiency?
- 22 A. Yes, actually, certainly better than the
- 23 federal system of total deregulation does. Moreover,
- 24 it advances a series of very important public
- 25 interest goals that are much more important than we

- 1 see in most modes of transportation. The statute
- 2 explicitly says that it is its purpose to protect
- 3 public health and safety, and to ensure solid waste
- 4 collection services are provided to all areas of the
- 5 state. I believe the statute was passed in 1985
- 6 after the state legislature had had an opportunity to
- 7 at least witness five years of the experience of
- 8 federal deregulation. To come back this strongly and
- 9 this affirmatively and recognize the significant
- 10 environmental health and safety problems that are
- 11 unique, somewhat unique to this industry, I think
- 12 expresses a great deal of wisdom on behalf of your
- 13 legislature.
- Q. Without the regulatory scheme provided by
- 15 the Washington statute, do you have any opinion as to
- 16 whether rural areas will receive solid waste
- 17 collection service at a non-discriminatory rate?
- 18 A. They certainly will not at non-
- 19 discriminatory rates, and some of them will not
- 20 receive service at all. Again, some small
- 21 communities have lost transportation service in rural
- 22 areas of other kinds. You know, a farmer can always
- get in his pickup truck and drive 50 or 100 miles and
- 24 buy a pickup load of fertilizer and take it back to
- 25 his farm, so there are other alternatives. But when

- 1 you're talking about the disposal of waste,
- 2 infectious waste, medical waste, there's going to be
- 3 every economic incentive in the world to do something
- 4 with it that shouldn't be done.
- Q. One last question, Professor Dempsey: In
- 6 your opinion, is it possible to meet a state-wide
- 7 need -- and I, again, am referring to both rural and
- 8 urban needs -- for reasonably priced solid waste
- 9 collection service, including infectious waste by
- 10 allowing free market entry without any sort of rate
- 11 regulation?
- 12 A. No, it isn't. If you had no regulation at
- all, you would have a highly discriminatory pricing
- 14 system. The service would be spotty. The economic
- condition of the industry would be weak, and the
- 16 economic forces driving the disposal of waste in
- 17 entirely the wrong direction for purposes of public
- health and safety would be stronger.
- MR. SMITH: Thank you, Professor Dempsey.
- Your Honor, I'd move for admission of
- 21 Exhibit No. 31 if I haven't done so already.
- JUDGE ANDERL: You haven't. Any objection
- 23 to Exhibit 31?
- MR. JOHNSON: I would like to ask you to
- 25 reserve ruling pending cross-examination.

- 1 JUDGE ANDERL: Okay. How much cross do you
- 2 have; can you give me a time estimate on your cross-
- 3 examination?
- 4 MR. JOHNSON: Well, first of all, I need to
- 5 have a little bit of time to look over what's been
- 6 presented.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Why don't we take our
- 8 morning break, then, at least 15 minutes and
- 9 reconvene at quarter to 11:00.
- 10 (Morning recess taken.)
- 11 JUDGE ANDERL: We're back on the record
- 12 after our morning recess.
- Mr. Johnson, we'll go to you for cross-
- 14 examination.

15

- 16 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MR. JOHNSON:
- 18 Q. Professor Dempsey, your first degree from a
- 19 law school was awarded to you in 1975, is that
- 20 correct?
- 21 A. That's right.
- 22 Q. And immediately upon graduation, you went
- 23 to work for the Interstate Commerce Commission as an
- 24 attorney advisor?
- 25 A. Yes, sir.

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- 1 Q. What were your duties as an attorney
- 2 advisor from '75 to '77? Apparently you -- yes,
- 3 that's my question.
- 4 A. I handled operating rights applications and
- 5 some rule making petitions in the area of trucking
- 6 and bus operations.
- 7 Q. Then in '77, you moved over to the Office
- 8 of General Counsel as an attorney advisor, but this
- 9 was a job with the CAB, is that correct?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. And who was the general counsel at that
- 12 time?
- 13 A. Phil Bakes, who subsequently became the
- 14 first man to bankrupt two airlines, first at
- 15 Continental and then at Eastern.
- Q. He put his Interstate Commerce -- or, I
- mean, CAB knowledge to work, or regulatory knowledge
- 18 to work and failed, is that right?
- 19 A. He was a fervent proponent of deregulation.
- 20 That's what he put to work.
- 21 Q. Then you became -- there was a hiatus there
- between '79 and '81 that apparently you went to
- 23 Denver College of Law at that time?
- 24 A. That's correct.
- Q. As an associate professor?

- 1 A. That's right, an assistant professor --
- well, I can't remember. Assistant, then associate,
- 3 and then ultimately full.
- 4 Q. I see. And then you took a leave of
- 5 absence from that position, apparently from '81 to
- 6 '82, to serve as legal advisor to the chairman of the
- 7 ICC?
- A. Yes, that's right.
- 9 Q. Who was the chairman at that time?
- 10 A. Reese Taylor.
- 11 Q. Are you currently a member of the
- 12 Transportation Lawyers Association?
- 13 A. Yes, I am.
- Q. And you receive their distinguished service
- 15 award in 1986?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. And is that association made up primarily
- 18 of lawyers who represent trucking companies and other
- 19 transportation entities?
- 20 A. Yes, predominantly trucking, but also the
- 21 other modes and not just U.S. attorneys, also
- 22 Canadian attorneys.
- Q. And they were formerly called the -- the
- 24 association was formerly called the Motor Carrier
- 25 Lawyers Association, you told us?

- 1 A. Yes, sir.
- 2 Q. That change in name suggests a little
- 3 broader interest than simply motor carriers, is that
- 4 true?
- 5 A. Uh huh, there was a recognition that the
- 6 practice of law had changed, and also an effort to
- 7 diversify membership.
- 8 Q. This Exhibit 31, the article contained in
- 9 it was copyrighted in 1991. Over what period of time
- 10 did you actually write that?
- 11 A. I would be quessing. I would probably say
- 12 1988 and '89, or '89 and '90; somewhere in there.
- 13 Q. Now in getting together your data for that
- 14 article, you focused primarily on the effects -- not
- 15 entirely -- but primarily on the effects which
- 16 regulation has on carriers as opposed to shippers, is
- 17 that --
- 18 A. No, no, I don't think that's right. I
- 19 spend a good deal of time talking about the impact on
- 20 small shippers and upon small communities as well.
- 21 Q. Of the total volume of freight that moves
- 22 in this country, how much moves to or from -- what
- 23 percentage moves to or from small -- what you would
- 24 characterize as small communities; less than one
- 25 percent?

- 1 A. I would only be guessing, but my guess
- 2 would be it would be larger than that. I don't know
- 3 the precise percentages.
- 4 Q. Now is it your position that a small
- 5 community is deserving of rates which are non-
- 6 compensatory to the carrier?
- 7 A. It is my position that all regions of the
- 8 country ought to have ubiquitous and reasonably
- 9 priced transportation service, as well as tele-
- 10 communication service and electric power service for
- 11 both economic and social reasons.
- 12 Q. What is a "reasonably priced service"; how
- does it -- what is its relationship to cost of
- 14 providing service; is it less than the cost of
- 15 providing service in some cases?
- 16 A. Well, as Ross Perot says, "There's no way
- 17 to sound bite that." The cost of providing service
- is a complicated factor. You're talking about fixed
- 19 costs, marginal cost, or a combination of the two
- 20 being fully allocated costs. I think, in some
- 21 instances, what you have seen is that regulatory
- 22 commissions have allowed carriers to have a service
- 23 territory that includes both lucrative and less
- 24 remunerative regions, and expects them to cross-
- 25 subsidize internally the costs of providing the

- 1 service and the revenue to cover the full cost of
- 2 providing service so that in the aggregate, the
- 3 carrier is a profitable enterprise.
- 4 And with respect to particular communities,
- 5 or users of the service, they each provide -- have
- 6 some equitable access to that, again, circulatory
- 7 system of the country, that they can buy the same
- 8 products and have the same opportunities to enter the
- 9 market with respect to the products that they've
- 10 reduced in that broader market for the sale of
- 11 commodities.
- 12 Q. But if a -- let's say a doctor's office in
- an area that's 120 miles from the nearest provider of
- service in the transportation of medical waste,
- 15 should that office expect as frequent and as
- 16 reasonably priced service from a medical waste hauler
- 17 as the doctor's office that's located in a
- metropolitan area near many other doctors' offices
- 19 whose medical waste can be picked up in a single
- 20 morning?
- 21 A. Within reason, yes. The one circumstance
- 22 that the regulatory would want to guard against is a
- 23 pricing or a service disadvantage such that the
- 24 doctor who lives in the rural area would have an
- incentive to dispose of the waste improperly.

- 1 Q. Have you ever written any books or articles
- 2 dealing with medical waste?
- 3 A. No, I have not.
- 4 Q. Have you ever studied medical waste haulers
- 5 and their particular problems?
- 6 A. In preparation for this testimony, I
- 7 studied them a bit. I would say that there are other
- 8 areas of transportation that I'm more familiar with
- 9 than medical waste haulers.
- 10 Q. Are you aware that there are -- that
- virtually the entire map of the state of Washington
- is covered by -- each point is covered by at least
- one garbage hauler who has the authority under his
- 14 garbage certificate to handle medical waste?
- 15 A. No, I'm not aware of that.
- 16 Q. Looking at page 260, I note that there's a
- 17 statement that: "Today, much of North American is
- dominated by its four largest trucking companies,
- 19 i.e. United Parcel Service, Yellow, Consolidated
- 20 Freightways and Roadway, or its single bus company,
- 21 Greyhound."
- In looking at your tables of the named
- trucking companies back on, for instance, page 317, I
- 24 see Consolidated, Roadway, Yellow all mentioned, not
- 25 United Parcel. Is that because United Parcel was in

- 1 a different category and not included in the lists
- 2 that are reflected here?
- A. Yes, this chart was not prepared by me, but
- 4 frequently, United Parcel Service is segregated out
- 5 because it has a different product line. Its product
- 6 line predominantly is parcels which basically compete
- 7 with the U.S. Postal Service as opposed to LTL
- 8 service which generally handles larger packages and
- 9 larger volume shipments.
- 10 Q. And you would agree, would you not, that
- 11 those same carriers, or major carriers, are the same
- 12 trucking companies or major companies when
- 13 deregulation came to the Interstate Commerce
- 14 Commission?
- 15 A. United Parcel Service was?
- 16 O. Yes.
- 17 A. Yes, I would agree.
- 18 Q. And the others, Yellow and so on?
- 19 A. Yes.
- Q. And on page 264, you state that: "Between
- 21 1983 and '88, the Interstate Commerce Commission
- approved ten general rate increases, totalling 51.3
- 23 percent."
- Now do you know how those increases
- 25 compared with the general trend of pricing in other

- industries, or products or services?
- 2 A. It is my belief that that is significantly
- 3 higher than the inflation rate during those years in
- 4 question, the Consumer Price Index. I don't believe
- 5 it increased 50 percent but in those five or six
- 6 years.
- 7 Q. Now those rate increases, the rates that
- 8 applied to carriers that were just -- to large
- 9 carriers, or many, many carriers operating to whom
- those rates didn't apply, isn't that correct?
- 11 A. It's my understanding that those rates are
- universal; they're applicable to all carriers who
- 13 participated in them.
- Q. Who participated. But don't most,
- numerically at least, carriers publish their own
- rates and they're not subject to these general rates?
- 17 A. I would have to say that these are the
- rates that were filed by the major rate bureaus, and
- 19 all member carriers represented in those rates which
- 20 must account for -- although, numerically, not the
- 21 largest number of carriers, certainly by volume
- 22 measured any way you want -- by the lion's share of
- 23 the nation's freight.
- Q. And you indicate a large number of -- I'm
- 25 unable to put my finger on the point right now -- but

- 1 a large number of certificates were granted in the
- years following 1980. Would you agree that many,
- 3 many -- a large percentage of those were granted to
- 4 single truck operators?
- 5 A. Yes, and I should add one other thing, that
- 6 although my chart which shows the number of
- 5 bankruptcies being a thousand a year, each and every
- 8 year since 1983, which is on page 271, that's
- 9 understated because the Interstate Commerce
- 10 Commission has revoked 20,000 certificates for
- 11 failure to file insurance, so that a huge proportion
- 12 -- a huge number of the carriers which have received
- operating authority either have gone into bankruptcy,
- or have ceased operations without going into
- bankruptcy, or have never started up.
- 16 Q. So those figures that relate to the number
- of carriers are really not very meaningful, are they?
- 18 A. No, and as I point out in a section of the
- 19 piece, the industry is becoming more concentrated.
- The meaningful players in this industry are becoming
- 21 fewer and fewer, so that a number of these carriers
- which do receive operating authority don't last.
- However, in the short term, they do take away freight
- 24 from established carriers.
- Q. Can you tell me if any large carrier

- organizations, such as the trucking industry, those
- which represent the trucking industry, are making any
- 3 significant efforts to reregulate the industry?
- 4 A. No, the American Trucking Association is a
- 5 fractured organization politically on this issue.
- 6 There are large carriers that believe that they will
- 7 survive. There are some small carriers that believe
- 8 that they will grow. There are other carriers that
- 9 are worried and concerned. A number of carriers
- 10 basically have their hands full trying to stay alive
- and don't have time for the politics of this issue at
- 12 all. But basically, the American Trucking
- 13 Association has been neutralized on this issue
- 14 politically, although the trucking industry, more
- generally, has expressed resistance to further
- deregulation; for example, federal pre-emption of
- intrastate regulation, and I should add elimination
- of the filed rate docket in light of the Supreme
- 19 Court's decision in Maislen.
- Q. I saw an article in the Seattle Post
- 21 Intelligencer just two days ago which describe a
- 22 couple of decisions that I haven't -- I don't have
- 23 the decisions, but it suggests -- it says that, "The
- 24 Supreme Court set aside a ruling yesterday that would
- 25 have let people bump from over-selling the airline

- flights sue under state law and collect monetary
- 2 damages, and this Justice has said a Federal Appeals
- 3 Court should restudy its ruling in a Montana case in
- 4 light of their decision last week that federal law
- 5 preempts states from regulating various aspects of
- 6 the airline industry." And then it talks about
- 7 trucking decisions, also.
- 8 Are you aware of the decisions that are
- 9 referred to in that article?
- 10 A. Yes, I haven't read them either, but I have
- 11 read the summaries of them in the press. But I
- 12 should add that the Airline Deregulation Act includes
- a specific pre-emption provision in it, explicitly
- 14 preempting the states from regulating air
- 15 transportation.
- Q. But the article goes on to say the Court,
- 17 without -- well, let's see -- "In a separate order
- 18 yesterday, the high court also refused to let
- 19 California, and by extension, at least eight other
- 20 states, including Washington, impose fees or other
- 21 forms of economic regulation on federal express
- trucking operations. The court, without comment,
- 23 left intact the ruling that states such state
- 24 regulation, even for trucks that never leave the
- 25 state, is preempted by federal law."

- 1 You haven't seen that decision either?
- 2 A. I have not, but it was my understanding
- 3 they simply denied certiorari, not that they issued
- 4 an opinion. And a Denial of Certiorari, as you well
- 5 know, doesn't mean that the court affirms the lower
- 6 court's decision. It may well mean that their docket
- 7 is so congested that they prefer to deal with other
- 8 issues right now.
- 9 Q. But you don't know what the situation is
- 10 there?
- 11 A. I've talked with people in the news media
- 12 about it who have asked me to comment, and they all
- told me that it was a Denial of Certiorari.
- 14 Q. Now you talk about the increase in
- bankruptcies, but it's true, is it not, that the
- business and personal bankruptcies generally have
- 17 been increasing over the last few years at a rapid
- 18 rate?
- A. Yes, our federal policy over the last
- 20 decade has had a significant impact upon American
- 21 industry generally; but, again, I refer to page 274
- where you see the failure rate of trucking being much
- worse than that in the post-deregulation period than
- 24 that of all American industry. Yes, it went up for
- 25 all industry. It just went up a whole lot worse for

- 1 trucking.
- Q. Of course, the bankruptcy of a one truck
- operator and one with 5,000 trucks, they're each
- 4 treated as one concern in these figures, are they
- 5 not?
- 6 A. Well, so are small business, vis a vis
- 7 Fortune 500 corporations.
- 8 Q. The average number of trucks operated per
- 9 carrier back in 1979, say, was a lot greater than the
- 10 average number of trucks operated by today's
- 11 carriers?
- 12 A. I wouldn't know. There are so many
- 13 carriers certificated that that would make the
- 14 numerator or the denominator -- I don't know which -
- 15 but it would make it very large.
- 16 Q. Now as far as safety is concerned, the
- 17 economic -- the federal government under its
- 18 Environmental Protection Laws, regulates safety
- 19 factors as far as the handling of hazardous waste of
- 20 all kinds, does it not?
- 21 A. The federal government does have a
- 22 regulatory structure under which it regulates all
- 23 trucking, and it regulates the movement of hazardous
- 24 materials more stringently. One of the things that
- 25 the federal government has tried to do for all

- 1 trucking is under the Federal Highway Assistance
- 2 Program provide the states with revenue whereby they
- 3 can monitor the safety of trucks on the highway.
- 4 What some states have found in the recent
- 5 years in just a random audit of trucks is that in
- 6 some states, up to 60 percent of the drivers or the
- 7 vehicles were so unfit that they were pulled
- 8 completely off the highway.
- 9 Q. Hasn't that been going on for a lot longer
- 10 than just the period of deregulation?
- 11 A. No, these figures are much worse than they
- were prior to deregulation. Certainly, safety has
- 13 always been a genuine concern of government with
- 14 respect to transportation. I remember reading that,
- 15 I believe, the first two automobiles in Ohio collided
- on dirt roads. The problem is that the margin of
- 17 safety seems to be deteriorating.
- 18 Q. Now most of this data that you've collected
- and show reflected in various graphs and so on, does
- 20 that relate to the operation of large trucks which
- 21 travel many, many miles -- a large number of miles
- per day, and we're not talking about the same kind of
- vehicles, like little vans that people use to pick up
- 24 medical waste?
- 25 A. Well, some of the charts refer to the

- 1 general freight sector of the industry, and those are
- 2 generally larger companies. But some of the other
- 3 charts refer to the industry more generally, and that
- 4 includes all companies, large and small, to include
- 5 truckload operations, less than truckload operations,
- 6 carriers of various sizes in terms of fleet sizes; in
- 7 terms of stage lengths, and in terms of operating
- 8 revenue.
- 9 Q. How does the requiring of a Certificate of
- 10 Public Convenience and Necessity impact the safety of
- 11 operations by a carrier?
- 12 A. Well, in the determination of whether or
- not the public convenience and necessity exists, the
- 14 regulatory authority has some responsibility to take
- 15 a look at the market factors and ensure that the
- industry isn't flooded with so much capacity that the
- 17 carriers will not be able to earn a reasonable return
- on their investment. That's part of what the
- regulatory authority does. By issuing a certificate,
- 20 they insure that the carrier continues to provide
- 21 ubiquitous service under its common carrier
- 22 obligations. To the extent that there are regulatory
- 23 problems which arise, safety or otherwise,
- 24 discriminatory pricing otherwise, there is always the
- 25 possibility of revoking or suspending that license

- 1 and putting the carrier out of business.
- 2 So both in terms of determining which
- 3 carriers shall go through the gate and making sure
- 4 that only those that are responsible, have a good
- 5 safety record, are fit, and there's an economic need
- for the provision of their service; and on the back-
- 7 end, by potentially re-revoking the certificate, they
- 8 ensure that carriers maintain operations that are
- 9 safe, adequate, dependable and reasonably priced.
- 10 Q. Now you, as a transportation lawyer -- I'm
- 11 not talking about medical waste in particular now,
- 12 I'm talking about trucking operations -- you would
- agree that a carrier whose operations are interstate
- in nature and is regulated by the Interstate Commerce
- 15 Commission, that those -- even though that regulation
- 16 may be not economic regulation in the sense that we
- 17 used to know -- that those carriers are not subject
- 18 to regulation in their interstate operations by any
- 19 individual state, are they?
- 20 A. It's my understanding the ICC has exempted
- 21 waste haulers from its jurisdiction so that they are
- 22 not regulated at the federal level at all.
- Q. No, they aren't. But the -- I mean, you've
- 24 stated that the haulers of other commodities, say, a
- 25 pickup and delivery carrier; this is picking up and

- delivering freight to the line that's going to take
- 2 it in interstate commerce. Now their operations are
- 3 not subject to state regulation, are they, to the
- 4 extent that they are interstate in nature?
- 5 A. A carrier which is certificated by the
- 6 Interstate Commerce Commission to operate in
- 7 interstate commerce, to the extent that it actually
- 8 is operating in interstate commerce, is exempt from
- 9 regulation by the state governments. But I want to
- 10 point out one difference: In the regulatory
- 11 structure in the Interstate Commerce Act versus the
- 12 Airline Deregulation Act which you spoke about
- earlier, the Airline Deregulation Act of 1978
- included a specific, explicit provision preempting
- 15 the states from regulating air operations. The
- 16 Interstate Commerce Act does something quite
- 17 different. It provides an explicit exemption for
- intrastate operations from the jurisdiction of the
- 19 Interstate Commerce Commission, in the same way that
- 20 the Federal Communications Act of 1934 provides a
- 21 similar exemption from federal regulation for the
- 22 states, so that we've got a different regulatory
- 23 structure here. And the real question is whether or
- 24 not the operations are interstate or intrastate in
- 25 nature, and that's --

- 1 Q. But what I'm talking --
- 2 A. Go ahead.
- 3 Q. What I'm talking about are those carriers
- 4 that provide service, pick-up and delivery service,
- 5 under the exemptions. They don't have a certificate
- from the Commission at all. They're providing as an
- 7 exempt hauler. Now the state has no jurisdiction
- 8 over those carriers, does it, as far as economic
- 9 regulation is concerned?
- 10 A. It may very well. There is no explicit
- 11 pre-emption. The question is what is the burden on
- 12 Interstate Commerce imposed by the state with respect
- 13 to its regulation.
- 14 Q. But you wouldn't have the state impose --
- or the state's regulations with respect to medical
- waste apply, even to interstate operations, simply
- 17 because the federal government has seen fit not to
- 18 regulate?
- 19 A. You're asking what I would do if I were in
- 20 a position of --
- Q. I mean, that's what you're asking in this
- 22 proceeding, in effect; you're supporting the position
- 23 that the activity should be regulated.
- A. Would you restate the position you think
- 25 I'm taking?

- 1 Q. Well, carriers who provide service under -
- 2 say, pick-up and delivery service of general
- 3 freight. Then their operations are not economically
- 4 regulated by the state authority.
- 5 A. Well, they are to the extent that they are
- 6 intrastate in nature.
- 7 O. Well, but it doesn't make them intrastate
- 8 simply that the operations are within the borders of
- 9 the state?
- 10 A. If their operations -- if they pick up in
- one part of the state and deliver it to the other,
- 12 they may well be operating in intrastate commerce and
- are not exempt from the jurisdiction of the State
- 14 Public Utilities Commission.
- 15 Q. You don't agree there are such things as
- 16 carriers who never leave the state who service as
- 17 strictly interstate, then?
- 18 A. The Interstate Commerce Commission has
- 19 taken the opinion in some of its recent decisions,
- 20 beginning with Armstrong, that there is such a
- 21 phenomenon. It's my understanding the Circuits are
- 22 split on this question. The Supreme Court has not
- 23 decided it. It is my view that the traditional view
- 24 of the Commission; that is, you look to the fixed and
- 25 persisting intent of the shipper at the time of the

- 1 shipment to determine whether or not any movement
- 2 which has a prior or subsequent movement in
- 3 interstate commerce determines whether or not the
- 4 movement is in interstate or intrastate commerce. I
- 5 believe that that is prudent law.
- Q. Well, you don't believe, then, that the
- 7 intent at the time the shipment is made determines
- 8 whether or not its interstate or intrastate?
- 9 A. I think that's one variable. It certainly
- 10 is one variable.
- 11 Q. You mentioned the New Jersey situation
- where medical waste was found washing up on the
- 13 shores. What is your understanding as to what
- 14 experts stated as to where that was coming from?
- 15 That waste wasn't coming from points in New Jersey in
- 16 many cases, was it?
- 17 A. So it was interstate commerce?
- 18 Q. Yeah, because much of it was coming from
- 19 New England, was it not?
- 20 A. Okay, I will concede that. It was
- 21 interstate commerce.
- Q. And the fact that New Jersey is not
- 23 regulated had nothing to do with --
- A. No, and I said at the time that I was not
- 25 making any assessment of the correlation between the

- 1 two.
- Q. I see. But can you relate any instances
- 3 that come to your attention where there have been
- 4 adverse safety episodes that have come about due to
- 5 the lack of regulation of movement of the medical
- 6 waste?
- 7 A. No, but that doesn't mean that there's not
- 8 a compelling state interest to prohibit them from
- 9 occurring.
- 10 Q. What did you do to prepare for your
- 11 testimony in this case other than to examine the
- Washington laws on the subject of solid waste?
- 13 A. I read prior decisions of this Commission
- on the issue of waste transportation. I studied the
- 15 statutes and regulations. I took a look at a summary
- of the evidence which has been adduced in this case,
- 17 and I read the West Virginia decision handed down by
- 18 the Federal District Court.
- MR. JOHNSON: I don't think I have any
- 20 further questions.
- JUDGE ANDERL: We go to the intervenors,
- 22 then. Mr. Hartman?
- 23 ///
- 24 ///
- 25 ///

1	CROSS	EXAMINATION

- 2 BY MR. HARTMAN:
- Q. Professor Dempsey, I enjoyed your comments
- 4 very much. I must say that when you talk about the
- 5 bottom lines of the motor carriers, when I think of
- 6 deregulation, I'm more concerned with bread lines.
- 7 But when you get down to the point of what the effect
- 8 is on the Commission's probable action in this cause,
- 9 we're talking basically about a complaint case here
- where the product has been moving out of state,
- allegedly for the purpose of avoiding state
- 12 regulation. Do you understand that that's basically
- 13 the nature of this case?
- 14 A. Yes, I do.
- 15 Q. And the transportation here involved could
- have apparently occurred in-state because of the
- disposal site in the state, and that has been
- 18 converted to an interstate move to avoid that
- 19 regulation, at least those are the allegations.
- When the transportation is converted in
- 21 this sense to interstate, I'm curious as to your
- impression of the right of the state to interfere.
- 23 A. There is no explicit pre-emption. The
- 24 Interstate Commerce Commission has exempted this type
- of product from its jurisdiction. So then the only

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- 1 question is a constitutional one, which is whether or
- 2 not it is an unreasonable interference on interstate
- 3 commerce for the state to foster its objectives of
- 4 protecting the safety and health and well-being of
- 5 its citizens.
- On the state side, you asked the question
- 7 what is the state's purpose; what's the legitimate
- 8 state interest? The legitimate state interest here,
- 9 as is expressed in the statute, is to protect the
- 10 safety and health of its citizens.
- There is no effort here to engage in, as
- 12 far as I've been able to see, favoritism with respect
- 13 to in-state companies. I believe all the parties
- 14 that are relevant to this proceeding are in-state
- 15 companies. It's also my understanding that this
- 16 commerce, this waste, will continue to move to
- 17 California if it is determined that the operations at
- 18 question here are unlawful.
- So the commerce -- there's no inhibition on
- 20 either the commodity moving in interstate commerce;
- 21 the parties, both out of state and in-state parties,
- 22 have equal access to the State Public Utilities
- 23 Commission's procedures to apply for operating
- 24 authority. This is a very weak case that there's any
- 25 sort of burden on Interstate Commerce here. There

- clearly is no favoritism, so the Pennsylvania vs. New
- 2 <u>Jersey</u> rule doesn't apply. There's no virtual per se
- 3 rule of invalidity.
- Q. Well, would you say the ultimate result,
- 5 then, in this particular case would be that the
- 6 Commission could adjoin them in transporting the
- 7 waste out of state?
- A. Yes, as it could any carrier operating
- 9 without a certificate.
- 10 Q. As far as the transportation of waste out
- of state, you had indicated that you had reviewed
- 12 certain cases decided by this Commission. I wonder,
- 13 sir, if you could advise us of which cases those
- 14 were?
- 15 A. If you let me go to my briefcase.
- 16 Q. Certainly.
- 17 A. <u>In the Matter of Evergreen</u> Waste Systems
- 18 before the Washington Utilities and Transportation
- 19 Commission; <u>In the Matter of Superior Refuge Removal</u>
- 20 <u>Corporation</u>; this proceeding of course, <u>Enoch</u>
- 21 Rowland, Kleenwell Biohazard; and then these West
- 22 Virginia cases, Medigen of Kentucky.
- 23 O. That was it?
- A. That's it.
- Q. You weren't given, say, The All Counties

- 1 <u>Disposal</u> Cause?
- 2 A. No.
- As far as American Environmental's decision
- 4 before this Commission, or that of Sure-Way, did you
- 5 have an opportunity to review those?
- 6 A. I have not.
- 7 Q. The disposition in those cases, and I
- 8 believe it was touched on in Evergreen, is it your
- 9 understanding <u>Evergreen</u> had anything to do with the
- 10 transportation of medical infectious waste, or just
- 11 garbage in general?
- 12 A. I think it was just garbage.
- 13 Q. And that the other cases that I cited,
- 14 the American Environmental and Sure-Way Incineration
- 15 cases, had more to do with the transportation of this
- 16 specific product we're here discussing; and in those
- 17 cases, one of the carriers was transporting out of
- 18 state to begin with. That was the intention. And as
- 19 part of its case before the Commission, it stated
- 20 that it was hauling to its own facility at that time
- 21 in Rancho Cordova, California.
- The other carrier, Sure-Way Incineration,
- had applied for disposal sites within the state of
- 24 Washington, and the Commission more or less stated
- 25 that as a result of its decision, although the

- 1 application was denied, that it applied for authority
- 2 for a local facility that could not transport its
- 3 waste out of the state.
- 4 But in respect to those two instances,
- 5 would it be your assumption that the Commission had
- 6 extended its jurisdiction to regulate the commerce
- 7 beyond its borders?
- 8 MR. FINNIGAN: I object.
- 9 MR. WILEY: Your Honor, I'm going to object
- 10 to the form of this question. Mr. Finnigan, I'll let
- 11 go first, I'm sorry.
- MR. FINNIGAN: First of all, I'm going to
- object because I believe that's a mischaracterization
- of the holdings in those two cases. The holdings
- went to the form of the application where the
- applications themselves listed in them the disposal
- 17 sites, and the applicant had restricted themselves by
- 18 their application. So the premise for Mr. Hartman's
- 19 question is erroneous.
- MR. WILEY: Your Honor, my objection is to
- 21 the form of the question, similar to Mr. Finnigan's
- objection; but, also, to a mis-statement in the form
- of the question relating to American Environmental
- 24 Management Corporation, my client, which did not ask
- 25 for authority to Rancho Cordova, but restricted its

- application to facilities owned and/or operated by
- 2 American Environmental Management Corporation
- 3 disposal facility, not identifying by its application
- 4 where those were located. And we've had that issue
- 5 arise on the previous day of hearing.
- I want it very clear, Your Honor, that we
- 7 did not seek jurisdiction for disposal in California,
- 8 but at the present time, that's the only facility we
- 9 had. That did not limit us to disposing in
- 10 Washington or in any other state if it was our owned
- or operated facility, so that's a mis-statement of
- 12 the premise of the application.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Hartman?
- MR. HARTMAN: I don't believe that the
- objections are at all well founded in the context of
- 16 my statement before -- the Commission had the record
- 17 before the American Environmental case as to what the
- 18 transportation was and where it was being
- 19 transported, and I think that was the context of my
- question as to the record revealed in the case, was
- 21 it was being transported out of state. That's all I
- 22 was intending to do. I think it's immaterial that
- 23 they had authority also to haul to any other
- 24 facilities if they only had one, and that was the one
- 25 that was identified on the record.

- 1 As far as the other comment by Mr.
- 2 Finnigan, I disagree with his characterization of the
- 3 record, and I think I correctly stated it.
- But, in any event, accepting it even as a
- 5 hypothetical that it was revealed on the record in
- 6 American Environmental that the product was going out
- of state, and that in respect to Sure-Way, the
- 8 Commission did state that it would be precluded from
- 9 transporting out of state because of the nature of
- 10 its application, my question still stands as to
- 11 whether or not he would -- in his opinion, that would
- 12 constitute an effort on the part of this Commission
- 13 to regulate the movement of commerce beyond the
- 14 state.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Does that satisfy your
- 16 objections?
- MR. FINNIGAN: Well, he just asked the same
- question again, and my objection still stands that
- 19 the question that he's asking was not a question
- 20 before the Commission because the Commission was
- 21 prescribed by the form of the applications that was
- 22 submitted by the applicants rather than resolving the
- 23 jurisdictional question.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Well, I don't know,
- 25 actually, that that's -- I'm sure Professor Dempsey

- 1 can tell us whether he has enough information to
- 2 answer the question.
- 3 THE WITNESS: That's the problem.
- 4 JUDGE ANDERL: He's already admitted that
- 5 he hasn't had an opportunity to read either of those
- 6 orders. I know that they are both quite lengthy, and
- 7 I don't know if that question even gives him a fair
- 8 enough background to be able to formulate an answer.
- I think I'll sustain the objection to the
- 10 question.
- 11 MR. HARTMAN: I'm willing to ask the -- let
- 12 me ask the witness:
- 13 BY MR. HARTMAN:
- 14 Q. What part of the question do you find to be
- unclear or make it impossible for you to answer?
- MR. SELLS: Well, Your Honor, I'm going to
- object to that question. Your Honor has already
- 18 ruled. If it's a hypothetical question, it assumes
- 19 facts that are not in evidence, and it's asking this
- 20 witness to comment on something that is not a part of
- 21 this record that he's never read and he's testified
- he hasn't read, too. It's beyond the scope of
- 23 direct, if nothing else.
- MR. SMITH: Your Honor, I would have to
- 25 agree. I'm willing to let Professor Dempsey answer

- 1 if he wishes, but it's a bit unfair to ask this
- 2 witness what he assumes the Commission meant based on
- 3 Mr. Hartman's summary of the decisions in those
- 4 cases.
- 5 JUDGE ANDERL: Yes, and that was the
- 6 problem that I had was just knowing the complexity
- 7 and the length of those orders, that I didn't think
- 8 an answer that Professor Dempsey could make based on
- 9 that summary would even be fair, or accurate or
- 10 relevant.
- MR. HARTMAN: Well, my hypothetical is
- 12 based strictly upon orders published by this
- 13 Commission, and so, in that context, it is not
- 14 objectionable. As far as the parties are concerned,
- 15 they're always entitled to question the hypothetical
- and put in additional facts, but I am entitled to ask
- 17 a hypothetical question that is related to the issue
- in this proceeding.
- MR. SELLS: Not if it's based upon
- 20 documents that; a) counsel is interpreting and we
- 21 disagree with that interpretation; and b) the witness
- 22 has never seen or heard of.
- JUDGE ANDERL: As I said, I've sustained
- the objection to that question, so let's move on.
- MR. HARTMAN: Then let me put it in this

- 1 context:
- 2 BY MR. HARTMAN:
- Q. What is your understanding from your review
- 4 as to where the medical waste transported in this
- 5 state is destined?
- A. California.
- 7 MR. SMITH: I have a clarification. You
- 8 mean by Kleenwell?
- 9 JUDGE ANDERL: I don't -- which did you
- 10 mean, Mr. Hartman?
- MR. HARTMAN: My question was to medical
- 12 waste in general.
- 13 A. Oh, to medical waste in general, I don't
- 14 know. With respect to Kleenwell, it's my
- understanding it goes to California.
- 16 BY MR. HARTMAN:
- 17 Q. And as far as the facilities for the
- handling of medical waste within the state of
- Washington, do you have any conception of what
- 20 facilities are available?
- 21 A. I understand that there are facilities that
- are available in the state of Washington that would
- handle the waste that is being transported by
- 24 Kleenwell.
- 25 Q. And what is your understanding as to what

- facilities are available?
- 2 A. The name of the facilities, I don't know.
- 3 I just understand that there are facilities
- 4 available.
- 5 Q. And are you aware of the fact that each of
- 6 the transporters of medical infectious waste under
- 7 the rules of the Commission must have on, or at least
- 8 available for inspection, a medical waste infectious
- 9 control program that designates their point of
- 10 destruction?
- 11 A. I was not aware of that.
- 12 Q. And are you aware also that they have to
- have contingency plans in case something happens with
- 14 their immediate or approved site that they have to be
- able to transport it to another point for destruction
- 16 and disposal?
- 17 A. I was not aware of that either.
- 18 Q. If the facilities in the state of
- 19 Washington should be closed or become inadequate and
- 20 the transportation had to occur for disposal out of
- 21 the state because of that emergency, what effect does
- 22 that have, in your opinion, on the character of the
- 23 transportation, as to whether it remains intrastate
- 24 or interstate?
- 25 A. Again, it depends on a constitutional

- analysis; weighing and balancing the state interests,
- vis a vis the burden on Interstate Commerce. You
- 3 will recall in the Maine Bait Fish case, the Supreme
- 4 Court upheld a regulation by the State of Maine to
- 5 prohibit the importation of all bait fish because
- 6 there was a concern about the disease that the bait
- 7 fish carried, and the impact that disease could have
- 8 on fish in the state of Maine.
- 9 Here we have infectious waste that doesn't
- 10 affect something as innocuous as bait fish, but could
- 11 potentially affect human beings. There is a
- 12 legitimate state interest in protecting the safety,
- and health and welfare of the citizens of this, or
- 14 any other state.
- 15 It has traditionally been sanctioned under
- 16 the police power of the state, since the beginning of
- our republic. So the state interest here with
- 18 respect to protecting the health of its citizens is
- 19 strong. Then you would have to assess the burden on
- 20 Interstate Commerce. I could imagine an analysis
- 21 which would require regulation and certification of
- 22 all carriers in order to protect the safety and
- 23 health of its citizens, irrespective of where the
- 24 waste was dumped.
- Q. And that gets to my question. Is there a

- distinction between disposal and the collection of
- 2 the waste within the state, where the state can have
- 3 jurisdiction over one and not the other?
- 4 A. I don't think so. I think it only goes to
- 5 the question of what the burden on Interstate
- 6 Commerce is. When I teach constitutional law, I draw
- 7 the scales of justice on the blackboard, and I say
- 8 you put some things on one side of the scales and
- 9 some things on the other side of the scales when
- 10 you're doing this kind of analysis, and that has to
- do with the burden of Interstate Commerce side of the
- 12 scales. It is if you are restricting the places
- where this thing can be picked up, or you are
- 14 restricting the places where this thing can be
- 15 disposed of, or you're restricting the highways over
- which it can be moved, or all of the above; the more
- of those things you have, the more of a burden you
- have on interstate commerce if, indeed, the thing
- 19 crosses the state line, or if, indeed, the provider
- of the service is an out-of-state firm.
- 21 So there is no cut and dry -- you know,
- 22 again, I can't give you a sound bite. There is no
- 23 cut and dry answer. If you play with the variables,
- 24 you have more of a case that this is implicitly
- 25 preempted under Article I, Section 8 of the

- 1 Constitution. But, again, we have a legitimate state
- 2 interest here that is stronger than most we will ever
- 3 see in constitutional analysis, and it is to protect
- 4 the people of the state of Washington from the spread
- 5 of communicable diseases.
- 6 Q. I'm not arguing that point, which I accept
- 7 that there is a legitimate state interest in the
- 8 preservation of health and welfare, and that's always
- 9 been one of the constitutional tests of how far a
- 10 state will go in exercising jurisdiction over
- 11 commerce.
- My question is still if the -- is there --
- well, in a case you read, I believe, the Evergreen
- 14 case, they made a distinction, if I recall that case
- 15 correctly, of the collection service conducted, the
- 16 qarbage and refuge collection service which is
- defined in the Washington statutes, and disposal; and
- 18 the language of the Commission that it does not
- 19 control or regulate disposal sites, only the
- 20 collection service.
- Viewing it in that context, if I have
- 22 correctly stated that case in your understanding, is
- 23 there a situation where there are, in fact, two areas
- of commerce here: one of which the state can regulate
- and one of which it does not or couldn't?

- 1 A. No, not from a constitutional perspective.
- 2 If the statute lends itself to regulation only of the
- 3 transportation, then it is so statutorily
- 4 constrained, but not constitutionally constrained.
- 5 And certainly, a part of the reason that we have, or
- 6 the state of Washington has imposed regulation upon
- 7 the transportation of waste, is to avoid a disposal
- 8 which could endanger the health and well-being of its
- 9 citizens. So there is some concern here over
- 10 improper disposal. Indirectly, disposal is being
- 11 regulated by regulating its transportation.
- 12 Q. And that's the area I think my question is
- going to. To the point when we get down to the
- 14 mechanics of how it is done, the certificate that
- would be issued to a carrier for the transportation
- of waste, if it be unrestricted and allows him to
- engage or to dispose of it at any point where you
- have the permitted facility, and that facility is out
- of the state, I guess you're saying that the state
- 20 has a right, in some context, to regulate that
- 21 disposal effort and be assured in its mind that the
- 22 disposal out of state is occurring at an appropriate
- and licensed facility, and in a manner acceptable to
- 24 the state jurisdiction?
- 25 A. Within reason, yes.

- 1 Q. The other questions I have are a little
- 2 less substantive. I am looking at your Exhibit No.
- 3 31, if I may, and the last appendices there -- it's
- 4 all kind of like looking down an old memory list of
- 5 old friends -- I take it on the last -- page 315,
- 6 that's comparable to what's shown on 317; it's an
- 7 attempt to list the same carriers, only eliminate
- 8 those who have gone bankrupt and out of business?
- 9 A. That's right.
- 10 Q. I notice, if we brought it more current,
- 11 aren't we losing a few others?
- 12 A. Yeah, I believe so.
- 13 Q. In fact, Garrett Freightlines is now out of
- 14 business, ANR; and hasn't Pacific Air Mountain
- 15 Express closed up?
- 16 A. Yes. If you turn to page 319, I tried to
- 17 take it up to 1990, but even that is too generous a
- list today, as you're correctly pointing out. PIE
- and Transcon, I believe, are both gone.
- MR. HARTMAN: Those are all my questions.
- 21 Thank you.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Finnigan?
- MR. FINNIGAN: Thank you.
- 24 ///
- 25 ///

1 CROSS EXAMI	NA.	ГΙО	N
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- 2 BY MR. FINNIGAN:
- Q. Mr. Dempsey, if I were to summarize your
- 4 testimony, one of the elements of your testimony is
- 5 that the deregulation experiment undertaken at the
- 6 federal level has not been a success. Would that be
- 7 one of the points of your testimony?
- 8 A. Yes. It has been a success for some users
- 9 of the system. It has been a success for Fortune 500
- 10 companies. It may, in the long-term, be a success
- 11 for certain large carriers. But for smaller users of
- 12 the system, remote geographic locations, for labor,
- workers in the system, stockholders, investors by and
- large, and most companies, it has not been a success.
- 15 Q. And on balance, if it's a success for some
- 16 and not a success for others, on balance, in terms of
- 17 the U.S. economy and the societal good for the U.S.,
- 18 how would you characterize the deregulatory
- 19 experiment?
- 20 A. My own view is that we need a strong
- 21 infrastructure which has an adequate level of
- investment to provide a continuation of the growth
- and productivity that we saw before deregulation. We
- need a system which is expeditious, a high level of
- 25 service provided at a fair price for all users of the

- 1 system, and it is my view that neither these
- economicals, nor indeed the social goals, trying to
- 3 make sure that rural and smaller users of the system
- 4 are treated fairly are being accomplished under this
- 5 regime of advocation of government oversight.
- Q. I take it also from your testimony, then,
- 7 that there are some elements of the nation's
- 8 infrastructure, such as transportation; and I believe
- 9 you also mentioned telecommunications and
- 10 electricity, provisional electricity, that are, in
- 11 your opinion, areas which should not be economically
- deregulated, which should be subject to the powers of
- 13 the state to control entry and --
- MR. JOHNSON: Objected to as immaterial and
- irrelevant. I know it's fun to question an expert,
- but to question him in the areas that have no
- 17 relationship to whether or not transportation of
- 18 medical waste is properly affected by the --
- MR. FINNIGAN: That was --
- 20 MR. JOHNSON: -- state regulations, I just
- 21 don't see how -- we're now going too far afield.
- MR. FINNIGAN: Well, I was trying to
- 23 summarize his testimony. That was actually a
- 24 preliminary question. The next question would be is
- 25 medical waste disposal one of those areas.

- JUDGE ANDERL: I'll allow the question.
- 2 BY MR. FINNIGAN:
- 3 Q. Do you have the question in mind?
- 4 A. The one you asked earlier?
- 5 Q. The one just before the objection, yes.
- A. Yes. In my view, the transportation,
- 7 communications and energy are the infrastructure of
- 8 the nation. They are the foundation for economic
- 9 growth, for commerce, communications and national
- 10 defense. If you think about -- take a look at the
- 11 World Bank. When the World Bank decides whether it's
- going to give money to a particular country to
- encourage them to grow out of the sort of medieval
- economic culture in which they exist, they will
- provide economic assistance for transportation,
- 16 energy and communications first because without that
- infrastructure, you don't have economic growth.
- Now traditionally, we've had the best
- 19 system of transportation in the world. In the
- 20 1970's, the Department of Transportation used to say
- 21 we had the finest system of transportation in the
- 22 world. Today, when you fly through the geriatric
- 23 planes in our crowded congested skies, get off, get
- into a taxi or a bus that is a generation old, and
- 25 dodge potholes in the interstate, we have a

- 1 transportation system that would embarrass a third
- world nation, and that's what we've done, both in
- 3 terms of deregulation driving away the private
- 4 investment in technology, and government prohibiting
- 5 the investment in the public sector infrastructure in
- 6 highways and airports. We've got billions of dollars
- 7 sitting in the trust fund that goes unspent because
- 8 our federal government refuses to.
- 9 And in the long-term, it can only have an
- 10 inimicable impact --
- MR. JOHNSON: Your Honor, I object. The
- 12 question is not being responded to. He's going off
- on a long answer that doesn't -- I haven't heard
- 14 medical waste mentioned yet.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Well, I think medical waste
- 16 was the next question. I think he's still on the
- 17 first one.
- 18 You can go ahead.
- 19 THE WITNESS: I'll finish it.
- 20 A. In the long-term, that can only have an
- 21 inimicable impact throughout our economic system.
- Those industries are unique, and they should be
- 23 treated differently by government, and traditionally,
- 24 they have, fortunately for us, with private
- ownership, but with government oversight.

1	Now medical waste, I see nothing different
2	in the transportation of medical waste and in the
3	transportation of any other commodity, except for one
4	thing: The argument for government oversight are
5	much more compelling in the area of anything that
6	could affect the health of the public because here
7	you have health concerns and environmental concerns
8	that you don't have when you ship tennis shoes. You
9	don't have when you ship garments, or even gold,
10	there is a this commodity has no economic value,
11	no positive economic value. There is an economic
12	cost incurred in terms of its consumption. Most
13	commodities have the opposite economic attribute.
14	Tennis shoes have an economic value when they're sold
15	in a Nike store. Nobody will buy, give you any money
16	for medical waste; not even the Russians will buy it
17	anymore, so, therefore, the arguments for regulating
18	transportation in this sector are much more
19	compelling than they are in virtually any other
20	sector. I mean, nuclear waste, I think, would be
21	another comparable area where there could be, or
22	ought to be a more stringent government oversight.
23	But when you get away from commodities like this that
24	has no economic value in terms of their consumption,
25	and which are notentially harmful to the public if

- they are disposed of improperly, these are unique
- 2 commodities where the government interest is
- 3 stronger, not weaker.
- 4 MR. FINNIGAN: Thank you. That concludes
- 5 my questions.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Sells?
- 7 MR. SELLS: Thank you. Your Honor.

- 9 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 10 BY MR. SELLS:
- 11 Q. Professor Dempsey, my name is Jim Sells. I
- 12 represent the Washington Waste Management
- 13 Association, which is a trade association composed of
- 14 privately held garbage and solid waste carriers in
- 15 the state.
- One question: Do you have an understanding
- of why the ICC has exempted solid waste permits under
- 18 state regulation, and if so, what is that
- understanding?
- 20 A. I believe the Interstate Commerce
- 21 Commission exempted waste because they believed that
- 22 it would have an economic impact upon its movement
- comparable to that of the movement of exempt
- 24 agricultural commodities; that is, it would
- 25 facilitate its movement by essentially opening it up

- for transportation and empty back-hauls by any
- 2 carrier who wants to carry it. But I haven't studied
- 3 the exemption decision in some years. I wrote about
- 4 it in one of my books, but I believe that that's the
- 5 reason, but I'm not certain.
- 6 Q. Have you not seen any movement on the part
- 7 of the ICC to reverse that position?
- 8 A. No, the Interstate Commerce Commission is
- 9 comprised of people who embrace the theology of
- 10 Laissez-faire, whose implicit thesis is that
- 11 unconstrained human grief will produce a better
- 12 society. They essentially would like to deregulate
- 13 the universe.
- 14 MR. SELLS: Thank you.
- 15 JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Wiley, any questions?
- MR. WILEY: Yes.

18 CROSS EXAMINATION

- 19 BY MR. WILEY:
- 20 O. Professor Dempsey, while many of us are
- 21 chomping at the bit to ask you questions that we've
- 22 stored up for years, we'll resist that temptation.
- 23 A few questions: First of all, this is the
- 24 first opportunity you've had to appear before this
- 25 Commission in regulatory proceedings?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- 2 Q. You mentioned in your testimony that you
- 3 referred in passing to what was termed by you a
- 4 "mandate or a common carrier charter." Would you
- 5 define that more specifically for the record,
- 6 specifically with respect to the common carrier
- 7 obligation for pricing and service?
- 8 A. The regulatory agreement between a
- 9 government and its people on the one hand, and a
- 10 carrier on the other is essentially as follows: The
- government says to the carrier, you are a common
- carrier; you have certain responsibilities to serve
- 13 the public fairly. We're going to provide oversight
- 14 to make sure that you do. Your obligation is to
- provide service throughout your certificate territory
- 16 at a just and reasonable price without discrimination
- in pricing or service. In exchange for that, we will
- 18 provide you with some reasonable assurance that your
- 19 economic health will be jeopardized -- we'll provide
- you with some assurance that your economic health
- 21 will not be jeopardized by an excessive amount of
- 22 competition, and we will attempt to ensure that you
- 23 earn a a reasonable return on your investment, but no
- 24 more than that. And that is sort of the social
- compact, in the Lockian sense, that is concluded

- 1 between a government and its carriers.
- 2 And in an historic sense, common carriers
- 3 have always been viewed as having certain unique
- 4 obligations to the public. You can go back to the
- 5 Roman era and see it in their bills of lading. And
- 6 in the anglo-American common law before regulation,
- 7 there was a whole body of common law that imposed
- 8 upon carriers the obligation to provide service as
- 9 common carriers without discrimination, and to
- 10 provide the service at just and reasonable rates.
- The codification in 1887 of regulation,
- 12 beginning with the railroad industry, was, in part,
- merely an effort to embrace that body of law which
- was pre-existing in the common law; and, again, it is
- 15 a social compact of the nature that I have described.
- 16 Q. With respect to that regulatory bargain or
- "compact," as you've termed it, you testified about
- 18 the statutory scheme for garbage or solid waste entry
- in this state, and I believe you indicated that it
- 20 was -- you characterized it as more restrictive than
- a normal, say, motor carrier entry scheme; is that
- 22 correct?
- 23 A. It includes all of the elements that we see
- in traditional public utility regulation; entry
- 25 regulation, rate regulation. We also have safety

- 1 regulation, and a recognition that the public
- 2 interest here includes an additional element; the
- 3 protection of the public health and safety of the
- 4 people.
- 5 Q. And vis a vis entry, did you indicate that
- 6 you had some comment about, you know, service to the
- 7 satisfaction of the Commission, or something with
- 8 respect to whether new entry would be authorized in
- 9 the absence of that showing; do you recall that
- 10 testimony? My question goes to whether you did a
- 11 comparative view on motor carrier entry in general,
- versus that statute for entry in the solid waste
- 13 field, and whether you felt one was more stringent on
- 14 entry than another? And if you haven't done that,
- 15 that's fine.
- Q. Well, there are several different models
- 17 that an entry statute could take, okay? One would be
- 18 the Interstate Commerce Commission's model whereby
- 19 public convenience and necessity is evaluated, but
- 20 the burden of proof is on the protestant to show that
- 21 the public convenience and necessity would not be
- 22 served by new entry.
- Another model, and that embraced by most
- states with respect to trucking generally, is a
- 25 public convenience and necessity model, the burden of

- 1 proof being on the applicant. Another model would be
- 2 a regulated monopoly statute, which basically
- 3 provided that there is one carrier per service
- 4 territory.
- 5 This statute appears to me to be a blend of
- 6 the latter two approaches, in that it says the
- 7 Commission may issue a certificate only if an
- 8 existing waste collection company or companies
- 9 serving the territory will not provide service to the
- 10 satisfaction of the Commission, which suggests a
- 11 presumption in favor of monopoly operating
- 12 territories, except where the existing carrier
- 13 provides inadequate service.
- 14 Q. Thank you.
- With respect to your description of the
- 16 common carrier charter or compact, would you expect
- 17 that those same sorts of criteria for service that
- you alluded to would apply as well to common carriers
- of solid waste under the statute that you just
- 20 analyzed?
- 21 A. Yes.
- Q. Would you anticipate that those sorts of
- criteria about fair, just and reasonable rates and
- 24 universal service would be honored or achieved by
- 25 unregulated haulers competing in an industry

- environment with regulated haulers?
- 2 A. No, I would not. An unregulated company is
- 3 driven predominantly by its profit motive. To the
- 4 extent that those objectives were consistent with a
- 5 profit motive that would be accomplished. In many
- 6 markets, they would not be consistent with the profit
- 7 motive and they would be ignored.
- Q. In listing what you've described as the
- 9 effects of free market entry at the federal
- 10 interstate motor carrier level and at the beginning
- of your testimony in alluding to Exhibit 31, you
- 12 didn't specifically focus on the issue of competition
- as a factor. And my question to you is, particularly
- 14 using the airline industry as an example, would it be
- 15 correct that you would also -- is lesson competition
- a reality now today in a deregulated industry, such
- as the airline industry; and if so, why?
- 18 A. Yeah, you can view these things short-term
- or long-term. At any particular time you want to
- take a Polaroid picture of an industry going through
- 21 a set of regulatory changes, as these modes of
- 22 transportation have gone through, you will get a
- 23 different understanding of what is occurring. So
- 24 it's better to, I think, stand back and take a longer
- 25 term view.

1	In the short-term, in the airline industry,
2	there was a tremendous level of competition; new
3	carriers emerged, People Express, Air Florida, that
4	began providing new, low cost service to consumers,
5	and everybody applauded the victory. But of the 176
6	airlines which emerged since deregulation, only one
7	became a major airline and it, too, is now in Chapter
8	11 bankruptcy. That's America West.
9	We have an industry which is more highly
10	concentrated than at any time in its history, and the
11	process is not done. It is a metamorphosis in which
12	some people estimate we will have as few as two or
13	three major airlines if nothing is done.
14	And inevitably, the trucking industry may
15	proceed down or is proceeding, I think, down the
16	same path. There are differences in trucking, vis a
17	vis other modes of transportation that are
18	significant; that pull and push the industry in both
19	directions. That is a result that it is even more
20	brutally competitive in the short run and more
21	monopolistic or oligopolistic in the long-run, and
22	some that pull it in the other direction.
23	In terms of it being more competitive, more
24	a they described it in the 1930's as "destructive
25	competition," the costs of entry in trucking are

- lower; therefore, it's easier to get into the
- 2 industry. The LTL section is another situation. The
- 3 costs are higher there.
- 4 The opportunities in the rail sector and
- 5 the air sector to control a monopoly bottleneck are
- 6 greater. And if you can control an airport, you can
- 7 charge monopoly rents. If you can control a rail
- 8 line, you have a monopoly along the rail line. In
- 9 trucking, you can't do that. If you build an LTL
- terminal facility, another company can build one
- 11 across the street. And in truckload transportation,
- you don't even need to make that investment. You
- 13 compete on the same highway. And since all of
- 14 transportation sells an instantly perishable
- 15 commodity, those tend to drive the industry toward
- the economic disintegration that I described earlier,
- 17 as described in my article.
- 18 On the other side, there are a couple of
- 19 things that shield the trucking industry from the
- 20 excessive level of competition that we see in the
- 21 other modes: one being the fact that we do not have
- 22 federal pre-emption of intrastate trucking.
- 23 Overwhelmingly, most states continue to regulate
- 24 intrastate trucking. And we have some measure of a
- shield, a competitive shield in terms of a limited

- 1 rate bureau anti-trust immunity. Those militate in
- 2 that direction.
- 3 As I point out in the paper, I don't know
- 4 of any industry that has suffered as badly under
- 5 deregulation than trucking, other than the savings
- 6 and loan industry. And the savings and loan fiasco
- 7 will cost everybody in this room \$5,000. That's what
- 8 the burden is per tax payer.
- 9 Q. My final question is in response to Mr.
- Johnson's question about your perceived lack of
- 11 federal re-regulation efforts. I wonder if you would
- 12 comment on whether, since approximately 1984, what
- 13 you -- isn't it correct that states have moved -- for
- 14 instance, Illinois and some other states -- have
- moved in the opposite direction or have tightened
- 16 regulation to motor carrier operations in their
- 17 state?
- 18 A. Well, the states have gone in both
- 19 directions. There are some states that have
- 20 completely deregulated, and there are other states
- 21 that are regulating more stringently now than they
- 22 ever have. So it's a mixed sort of a bag right now.
- Q. Since 1984, is it correct that no state has
- 24 deregulated its motor carrier operations?
- 25 A. I believe that's right, although off the

- 1 top of my head, I can't remember when Maine
- deregulated. It may have been after '84.
- 3 Q. But that was the last day?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 MR. WILEY: No further questions, Your
- 6 Honor.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Okay, thank you. Ms.
- 8 Horenstein?
- 9 MS. HORENSTEIN: I have no questions, Your
- 10 Honor.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Smith?
- MR. JOHNSON: I have one question.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Johnson?

- 15 RECROSS EXAMINATION
- 16 BY MR. JOHNSON:
- 17 Q. Are you aware that Seattle is located in
- 18 King County?
- 19 A. That's right, they call it the Kingdome,
- 20 don't they?
- 21 Q. And that Kleenwell is domiciled in King
- 22 County?
- 23 A. I'll accept that.
- Q. And in order to engage in the handling of
- 25 medical waste, Kleenwell is required, as all are, to

- 1 obtain -- to pass the standards set by the
- 2 Seattle/King County Health Department who examines
- 3 the facilities they -- or truck that's used; the
- 4 storage facilities that are used, the destruction
- 5 site of where the medical site is taken; all measures
- 6 working toward protecting the health of the citizens;
- 7 are you aware of that?
- A. It was my understanding that this waste is
- 9 being disposed of in California, not in King County.
- 10 Q. It is. But even then, Seattle/King County
- 11 examines the facility.
- 12 A. They send people down to go look at the
- 13 facilities in California?
- 14 Q. Yes, or have someone do it on their behalf.
- MR. SELLS: Your Honor --
- MR. SMITH: Your Honor, I think up to that
- 17 point, I think it was a fair characterization of the
- 18 testimony. I don't recall anything in the record
- 19 that the Seattle/King County Health Department sends
- 20 anyone to California.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Yes, I have no recollection
- 22 of that.
- 23 MR. WILEY: Your Honor, I object to the
- 24 form based on my knowledge as well.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Johnson, can you clarify

1	that for us?
2	MR. JOHNSON: What's that? That's all I
3	have.
4	JUDGE ANDERL: So you don't want a response
5	to that; you don't want to rephrase the question?
6	MR. JOHNSON: That's okay.
7	JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Smith, does your witness
8	have any time constraints? Can we go to lunch and do
9	redirect after lunch?
10	MR. SMITH: Your Honor, Professor Dempsey
11	has a 2:30 flight if he can make it, but I have no
12	redirect, if that helps.
13	JUDGE ANDERL: That does, considerably. I
14	have no questions for this witness.
15	(Witness excused.)
16	Then let's break for lunch. We'll be back
17	at 1:30.
18	(Lunch recess taken at 12:15 p.m., to
19	reconvene at 1:30 p.m.)
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1	AFTERNOON SESSION
2	1:30 p.m.
3	JUDGE ANDERL: We're back on the record
4	after our lunch recess.
5	Mr. Smith, was Professor Dempsey your only
6	witness?
7	MR. SMITH: Yes, Your Honor.
8	JUDGE ANDERL: And the intervenors? Ms.
9	Horenstein, I know you have a witness to present.
10	MS. HORENSTEIN: We do have a witness, Your
11	Honor. We call Weldon Burton.
12	Whereupon,
13	WELDON BURTON
14	having been first duly sworn, was called as a witness
15	herein and was examined and testified as follows:
16	JUDGE ANDERL: You may go ahead.
· 17	
18	DIRECT EXAMINATION
19	BY MS. HORENSTEIN:
20	Q. Mr. Burton, would you please state your
21	name and business address for the record?
22	A. Weldon Burton, B-u-r-t-o-n; 1202 Southeast
23	103rd Ave., Vancouver, Washington, 98664.
24	Q. And what is your occupation, Mr. Burton?
25	A. I'm a CPA.

- 1 Q. And by whom are you employed?
- 2 A. I'm currently self-employed. I provide
- 3 accounting and advisory services to small and medium
- 4 sized businesses in Clark, Cowlitz, Skamania and
- 5 Wahkiakum Counties in Washington.
- 6 Q. Does this also include Clark County
- 7 Disposal and Buchmann Sanitary Service?
- 8 A. Yes, it does.
- 9 Q. Could you give us a little bit of your
- 10 educational and professional background?
- 11 A. Graduate of Baylor University with a
- 12 Bachelor of Business, 1970; various continuing
- education courses sponsored by the American Institute
- of CPAs; the Washington Society of CPAs, and the
- Oregon Society of CPAs; CPA licensed in Washington
- state in 1975, and licensed in Oregon in 1992.
- 17 Q. How long have you been providing financial
- 18 and managerial advisory services to -- I'm going to
- 19 abbreviate -- CCDI and Buchmann?
- 20 A. I began in May of 1985 working with the
- 21 companies providing various financial advisory
- 22 services.
- Q. Can you generally describe the type of
- services you've rendered for CCDI and Buchmann?
- 25 A. General traditional accounting services,

- including assistance with their in-house accounting
- department and closing the books each month, and
- 3 preparing all year-end work papers necessary for
- 4 publication of the financial statements; the Class A
- 5 annual reports filed with the Washington Utilities
- 6 Commission, and other consulting services as
- 7 requested and required.
- Q. Including general business advisory
- 9 services?
- 10 A. Including general business advisory
- 11 services, rate filings, cost studies, cost
- 12 allocations and other services as necessary.
- 13 Q. By way of brief background, could you give
- us an explanation of how long CCDI and Buchmann have
- been in their certificated areas?
- 16 A. The company traces its origin back to 1937
- when Phillip Leitner, the grandfather of the current
- management, purchased the company and began operating
- 19 the Vancouver Sanitary Service. That service
- 20 included the City of Vancouver and the unincorporated
- 21 Clark County area generally surrounding the city of
- 22 Vancouver.
- In 1961, the management at that time
- 24 consisted of Phillip Leitner's five sons. They
- 25 purchased a business in Kamas called Twin City

- 1 Sanitary Service, and then in 1974, the brothers
- 2 purchased the Buchmann Sanitary Service operation,
- 3 which is basically most of north Clark County.
- 4 Q. So these three areas that were acquired
- 5 comprised substantially all of Clark County?
- 6 A. They comprised substantially all of Clark
- 7 County except service in the City of Kamas and the
- 8 City of Washougal.
- 9 Q. Are you aware of whether CCDI and Buchmann
- 10 have experienced any unregulated competition in these
- 11 areas?
- 12 A. Yes, CCDI started facing unregulated
- competition in 1979 when a former employee resigned
- 14 and began operating what's known as One Way Disposal.
- 15 In 1982, another unregulated carrier began called All
- 16 County Disposal; and in 1983, another hauler called
- 17 Evergreen Waste Systems began operating in the
- 18 county.
- 19 Q. Let's focus on Evergreen in particular, Mr.
- 20 Burton. Can you tell us approximately how long they
- 21 operated in the Clark County area?
- 22 A. Evergreen Waste Systems began in 1983 and
- 23 continued until December of 1986.
- Q. So you were associated with CCDI and
- 25 Buchmann during that time and have direct knowledge

- 1 of the effects of that competition on those
- 2 companies?
- 3 A. Yes.
- Q. Can you tell us whether, as a result of
- 5 that unregulated competition with Evergreen, whether
- 6 CCDI and Buchmann sustained customer loss?
- 7 A. Yes, they did. Evergreen eroded the
- 8 customer base, the residential customer base by
- 9 picking up approximately ten percent of the
- 10 customers, and about 15 percent of the commercial
- 11 customers. They took away about \$30,000 a month in
- 12 gross revenue from CCDI and Buchmann.
- Q. And you indicated that they were competing
- with CCDI and Buchmann for how long?
- 15 A. For approximately three years.
- Q. So about what was the total gross loss to
- 17 CCDI?
- 18 A. The total gross loss over the three year
- 19 period was slightly in excess of a million dollars.
- Q. Did those customers that CCDI and Buchmann
- 21 lost to Evergreen fall within a particular geographic
- 22 area within their territory?
- 23 A. Yes, Evergreen concentrated on soliciting
- customers in the highly populated, densely populated
- 25 areas of Clark County. They did not attempt to move

- 1 into the city of Vancouver. They concentrated in the
- 2 unincorporated areas along several major arterials,
- and would go in and attempt to take the most
- 4 productive and most profitable commercial accounts
- 5 and concentrated in the densely populated residential
- 6 areas in soliciting those accounts.
- 7 Q. Are you familiar with why Evergreen did not
- 8 pursue the City of Vancouver?
- 9 A. The City of Vancouver, by ordinance,
- 10 prohibits any unlicensed refuge collector from
- operating within the city, and Vancouver Sanitary
- 12 Service, a d/b/a of Clark County Disposal, Inc., has
- an exclusive collection contract with the City of
- 14 Vancouver.
- 15 Q. This description you just provided for us,
- 16 is that a characterization of what Professor Dempsey
- 17 previously referred to as "cream-skimming"?
- 18 A. Exactly. Evergreen, as I say, they would
- 19 work the major arterials where there was a
- 20 concentration of commercial and residential accounts,
- 21 and only service those accounts, making it very
- 22 efficient and expedient to provide service and
- 23 collect the revenue.
- Q. Generally, Mr. Burton, can you give us an
- 25 explanation of the effect that this competition had

- on the rates that were charged to the customers in
- 2 the regulated areas?
- 3 A. Clark County Disposal, Vancouver Sanitary
- 4 Service -- d/b/a Vancouver Sanitary Service -- had to
- 5 sustain these losses, and the only way that the
- 6 losses could be made up were through rate filings
- 7 with the WUTC for its customers within the regulated
- 8 tariff area that it served. And we have two rate
- 9 filings: one in 1984 and one in 1987 to help recoup
- 10 some of these lost revenues.
- 11 Q. Was there a reason why there was a delay
- from when the unregulated competition began in '83
- until the first rate filing in '84?
- 14 A. The unregulated carrier could follow along
- 15 the regulated carrier and adopt a rate structure,
- 16 generally similar to the regulated carrier,
- 17 undercutting prices by maybe 15 to 25 cents per
- 18 service unit, and that way, the unregulated carrier
- 19 could charge approximately the same rates. And when
- the regulated carrier went in for a rate increase,
- 21 the unregulated carrier could raise his rates and
- 22 hitch-hike along with the regulated carrier by
- getting the same rate structure without any state
- 24 regulation or oversight. And every time the
- 25 regulated carrier had to raise his rates, he would

- lose customers to the unregulated carrier, and the
- 2 customers that went to the unregulated carrier would
- 3 end up paying approximately the same amount as the
- 4 regulated carrier would provide, but there was no
- 5 regulation over the unregulated carrier.
- 6 Q. So just so I understand, the reasons that
- 7 CCDI and Buchmann didn't go in for an immediate rate
- 8 increase was; number one, it would have provided
- 9 basically an immediate rate increase for the
- 10 unregulated hauler; and number two, probably would
- 11 have lost customers?
- 12 A. That is correct. When the regulated
- 13 carrier went in for rate increases, all we would do
- 14 is drive away the existing customer base to the
- unregulated hauler, and the unregulated hauler would
- then, very quickly after the regulated haulers rates
- were approved, raise their rates to within, again, 15
- to 25 cents of the approved rates by the Commission.
- 19 Q. Mr. Burton, are you familiar with why
- 20 Evergreen considered themselves to be exempt from
- 21 regulation?

· . .

- 22 A. They claimed exemption under Interstate
- 23 Commerce. They were hauling their refuge to the St.
- 24 John's landfill in Portland.
- Q. So because of the fact they pick up in

- 1 Washington and dispose out of state, they argued that
- 2 they were exempt from UTC jurisdiction?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 O. I believe Professor Dempsey talked about
- 5 this earlier, but is it your understanding as well
- 6 that as a condition for CCDI and Buchmann to operate
- 7 under their Certificate of Public Convenience and
- 8 Necessity, that they need to service everyone in
- 9 their regulated area?
- 10 A. They have to abide by all rules and
- 11 regulations promulgated by the Commission in order to
- 12 retain their Certificate of Public Convenience and
- 13 Necessity, and that includes serving customers; not
- only in the urban, but the rural areas of the county
- in their service territory.
- 16 O. Are there rural areas in the CCDI and
- 17 Buchmann territories?
- 18 A. There are large rural areas in the northern
- 19 part of Clark County. I don't know the population
- density, but there are many miles of unpopulated
- 21 forest land, or sparsely populated forest land and
- 22 farm land in northern Clark County.
- 23 O. Could you give us your best estimate on the
- 24 distance between where CCDI and Buchmann's trucks are
- 25 housed and the edge of the area they need to service?

- A. It's approximately 50 miles up to the area known as Lake Merwin, which Buchmann Sanitary services on the northern edge of Clark County and the southern edge of Cowlitz County, and they service customers in those areas at the same rate that they service customers less than five miles from their terminal.
- Q. Is that because the cost is the same to service those customers?
- 10 A. No, the cost is obviously not the same.

 11 The cost is much greater to drive 50 miles to service
 12 one, two, or three customers; but under the concept
 13 of universal service in the regulated tariff area,
 14 all customers pay the same price, regardless of
 15 location.

- Q. If this requirement were not in place, if the UTC didn't require, for instance, Buchmann to service those folks out there 50 miles from their hub, would you, as a financial advisor, encourage them to focus on the more densely populated areas?

 A. That's quite obvious that you would
- A. That's quite obvious that you would definitely focus on the highly populated areas where your trucks are more efficient, your labor is more efficiently used, and your potential profits are obviously much higher.

- MS. HORENSTEIN: Your Honor, I have a
- 2 document that I would liked marked.
- 3 JUDGE ANDERL: That will be Exhibit No. 32.
- 4 (Marked Exhibit No. 32.)
- 5 BY MS. HORENSTEIN:
- 6 Q. Mr. Burton, could you briefly describe the
- 7 document you've just been handed?
- 8 A. This is a letter dated July 31, 1985 on
- 9 stationary with the letterhead of Evergreen Waste
- 10 Systems, Inc., and this is a letter that they sent to
- 11 customers in the area in Vancouver, west of 72nd
- 12 Avenue, and north to 99th Street. And basically the
- 13 letter says that they will refuse to service any
- 14 customers outside that geographic area that they
- 15 described. This is an area that is lightly
- 16 populated. It's more of a residential area that's
- somewhat sparsely or lightly populated and has not
- 18 experienced a great amount of growth in the last five
- 19 years.
- 20 Q. You're talking about the area that's
- 21 excluded?
- 22 A. That's correct.
- Q. Based on your experience with Evergreen,
- 24 what would you expect the effect to be on the solid
- 25 waste customers in Clark County if Clark County

- 1 continued to experience such unfettered regulation?
- 2 MR. JOHNSON: Objected to as being beyond
- 3 the qualifications of this witness. I don't think
- 4 he's been qualified to testify to the effect on
- 5 customers of a service change.
- 6 MS. HORENSTEIN: Your Honor, based on his
- 7 previous experience, I'm wondering if he could give
- 8 us some insight as to whether he would expect the
- 9 same trend to continue, or if he would expect
- 10 something else.
- JUDGE ANDERL: If he can answer that, if he
- 12 knows, I'll allow the question.
- 13 A. Yes. The basic concept of the regulated
- 14 service territory is to service all customers in an
- 15 efficient, cost effective manner. And the truck
- 16 driving down the street, if it picks up ten
- households, and that's the ten households on that
- street in that block, it's operating at a hundred
- 19 percent efficiency and its cost to the customer is at
- 20 the lowest point.
- 21 If they only pick up six households,
- they're operating at obviously 60 percent efficiency,
- and if another competitor comes down the same street
- 24 with the same truck, or a different truck, they have
- approximately the same fixed costs so that the

- 1 consumers on that street are paying for two trucks
- 2 instead of one; and consequently, the customer must
- 3 pay a higher rate in the long-run to keep the two
- 4 companies operating in a competitive manner.
- 5 Q. So one of the effects on unregulated
- 6 competition is an increase in rates to customers?
- 7 A. That is correct.
- Q. As demonstrated by the letter that we just
- 9 discussed, is there any concern with lack of service
- 10 to customers?
- 11 A. And also, the customer, if they happen to
- be outside an area that the unregulated hauler
- 13 chooses not to serve, they very well may not get
- 14 service, except for the regulated hauler. And this
- is not healthy for the county-wide system.
- 16 As I described to you earlier in the
- Buchmann service territory, the customer pays the
- same rate at the southern end of the territory as
- does the customer that's about 50 miles away.
- Q. Going back to a previous example, Mr.
- 21 Burton, when you said that perhaps CCDI would be
- 22 going down the street in conjunction with another
- 23 truck and picking up 60 percent of the household, can
- 24 they not reduce their expenses in proportion to the
- 25 revenues that have been reduced?

- 1 A. Not necessarily because there is a fixed
- 2 cost of the truck leaving the yard every day, and
- 3 that is the support services to keep the truck on the
- 4 road in a safe manner, the mechanics, the shop; the
- 5 supervisors in the shop, the driver supervisor,
- 6 obviously, the driver; the office support staff, the
- 7 utilities, keeping the office open, keeping the
- 8 computers running, keeping the telephones going;
- 9 keeping heat, light and power to the office. You
- 10 cannot proportionately, effectively cut that just
- 11 because you lose a portion of your customer base.
- 12 Q. Somebody has got to pay for that?
- A. Someone has to pay for it some way or
- 14 another.
- 15 Q. For both haulers?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- MS. HORENSTEIN: Your Honor, I'd like to
- move for admission of Exhibit 32.
- 19 JUDGE ANDERL: Any objection to that
- 20 exhibit?
- MR. JOHNSON: Objected to as being
- 22 irrelevant, immaterial and the author of the letter
- 23 isn't here.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Ms. Horenstein, can you get
- any additional authentication on this document in

- 1 terms of how the witness came about having it?
- MS. HORENSTEIN: Yes.
- 3 BY MS. HORENSTEIN:
- Q. Mr. Burton, can you tell us how you came
- 5 into possession of this document?
- 6 A. This document was delivered to Clark County
- 7 Disposal by several of the customers that resided in
- 8 the area that Evergreen Waste Systems chose not to
- 9 serve when they requested service from CCDI.
- 10 Q. It wasn't solicited, it was received in the
- ordinary course from disgruntled customers?
- 12 A. That is correct.
- 13 JUDGE ANDERL: I think that cures that
- 14 problem, and I will overrule the remaining objections
- 15 and allow Exhibit 32 into evidence.
- 16 (Admitted Exhibit No. 32.)
- 17 MS. HORENSTEIN: I have no further
- 18 questions of this witness.
- 19 JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Johnson, cross?

- 21 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 22 BY MR. JOHNSON:
- Q. Do you have any documentary support for any
- of the statements that you have made here? You've
- 25 just come here and voiced your opinion that

- 1 regulation is great and deregulation is terrible.
- 2 A. Sir, I've worked in the industry in excess
- 3 of six years. I have testified before this
- 4 Commission in cases. I have --
- 5 Q. I just asked if you had any documentation
- 6 to support your --
- 7 A. Not with me, no.
- Q. What is the name of the company on whose
- 9 behalf you're being presented?
- 10 A. Clark County Disposal, Inc.
- 11 Q. And you referred to Vancouver Sanitary
- 12 Service. Are they now owned by Clark County
- 13 Disposal?
- 14 A. Clark County Disposal, Inc. has two
- d/b/a's: one, Vancouver Sanitary Service, and the
- 16 second one is Twin City Sanitary Service. They serve
- 17 two different geographic territories within Clark
- 18 County.
- 19 Q. And the Twin City Disposal doesn't serve
- 20 Kamas or Washougal as it sounds like it would?
- 21 A. It does not serve the incorporated cities
- 22 of Kamas and Washougal.
- O. How long have you done the CPA work for
- 24 Clark County Disposal?
- 25 A. I began working with the company in May of

- 1 1985.
- Q. And that was toward the end of the
- 3 Evergreen Waste Systems operation, is that right?
- 4 A. Evergreen Waste Systems did not cease
- 5 operations until December of 1986.
- 6 Q. But they had commenced in '83?
- 7 A. That's correct.
- Q. And during '83, '4 and '5, you weren't with
- 9 the industry?
- 10 A. That is correct.
- 11 Q. Now Clark County Disposal, they are what we
- 12 might think of as regular solid waste companies.
- 13 They don't focus particularly on medical waste?
- 14 A. They have a medical waste division and
- 15 medical waste operations. They have medical waste
- 16 tariffs on file with the Commission.
- Q. And those operations cover only the
- 18 territories in which they are engaged in the
- 19 transportation of solid waste, generally?
- 20 A. No, I -- well, that is correct. I believe
- 21 they are serving some other areas, but I'm not
- 22 qualified to comment on that.
- Q. Not, however, outside of Clark County, is
- 24 that right?
- 25 A. I don't know the answer to that question.

- 1 Q. And what percentage of the total volume of
- 2 business that the company does is involved in medical
- 3 waste?
- A. I cannot recall an exact figure, but it's
- 5 approximately one to two percent of the total
- 6 revenue.
- 7 Q. Do they encounter competition from American
- 8 Environmental in Clark County?
- 9 A. Yes, they do.
- 10 Q. And what has been the effect of that
- 11 competition?
- 12 A. I am not qualified to answer that question,
- 13 sir.
- 14 Q. I think you referred to a gross loss of a
- million dollars over the three years that Evergreen
- Waste Systems was in operation. By "gross loss," are
- you referring to the revenue loss, or actual loss of
- 18 that amount from operations?
- 19 A. It's a gross revenue loss.
- Q. The company has still operated profitably?
- 21 A. That is correct.
- Q. You indicated that regulated carriers --or
- 23 maybe it was the previous witness -- well, the
- 24 previous witness indicated that deregulated carriers
- are driven by the profit motive. Do you agree with

- 1 that?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. But aren't regulated carriers also driven
- 4 by a profit motive?
- 5 A. Regulated carriers are driven by a profit
- 6 motive, that is correct.
- 7 MR. JOHNSON: That's all I have.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Smith, any questions for
- 9 this witness?
- MR. SMITH: Yes, Your Honor.

- 12 CROSS EXAMINATION
- 13 BY MR. SMITH:
- Q. Mr. Burton, you described the situation
- where rates went up as a direct result of the
- 16 competition from unregulated carriers, is that
- 17 correct?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. And that every time rates went up, you lost
- 20 more customers still?
- 21 A. That's correct.
- Q. Which, I guess, in turn, put more pressure
- 23 to raise rates?
- A. That is correct. It's a spiral.
- Q. And how long did the Clark County Disposal

- 1 group companies survive in that kind of spiral?
- 2 A. Well, the company faced that unregulated
- 3 competition in 1979 to 1986, and continued to survive
- 4 on a reduced profit level, but continued to survive
- 5 and compete with the unregulated carriers.
- 6 Q. Could those companies continue in that mode
- 7 forever, in your opinion?
- A. Two of the three unregulated companies went
- 9 bankrupt.
- 10 Q. I'm sorry, the Clark County Disposal
- 11 company.
- 12 A. I'm sorry. The Clark County Disposal, Inc.
- 13 could have survived and would have survived because
- 14 it had sufficient capital to maintain operations.
- 15 But it would not have achieved basically a reasonable
- 16 profitability. It would have achieved a small profit
- margin, and continued to eek out a meager existence.
- 18 Q. Would that impact in any way the
- maintenance of your equipment?
- 20 A. Over the long run, it would because if the
- 21 carrier is not earning a sufficient return on its
- 22 asset base, it cannot afford to invest in new
- 23 equipment to replace equipment that becomes aged and
- 24 obsolete.
- MR. SMITH: Those are all my questions.

- JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Hartman?
- 2 MR. HARTMAN: Just a point of
- 3 clarification, if I could, on Exhibit No. 32 first.

5

- CROSS EXAMINATION
- 6 BY MR. HARTMAN:
- 7 Q. It says, "Due to the demise of All County
- 8 Disposal, we have had to draw a line and consolidate
- 9 in our areas."
- 10 Could you explain to me what occurred
- 11 there? Why was Evergreen required to withdraw when,
- in fact, they had lost competition? I don't think
- 13 they would have --
- 14 A. I'm not for sure that I can give an
- 15 accurate, complete detailed description of what
- transpired between Evergreen and All County.
- 17 Q. They were not affiliated companies, I take
- 18 it?
- 19 A. That is my understanding, they were not
- 20 affiliated. It is my understanding that an
- 21 arrangement was worked out as All County was on the
- 22 verge of bankruptcy, that Evergreen Waste Systems
- 23 took over a portion, or their entire customer list.
- Q. And this was just a portion they didn't
- 25 want, you say?

- 1 A. That's correct.
- Q. As far as the two companies you represent,
- 3 what disposal facility do they use?
- 4 A. Currently?
- 5 Q. Yes.
- 6 A. Currently, they're using the Columbia
- 7 Resources Center Transfer Stations.
- Q. And where does the waste go?
- 9 A. The waste is being barged to Oregon, to
- 10 Boardman, Oregon at the Findley-Butes Landfill.
- 11 Q. And so is that some arrangement --
- MR. JOHNSON: Excuse me, just for
- 13 clarification, are you now talking about medical
- 14 waste or waste in general?
- MR. HARTMAN: I was going to clear that up,
- 16 Jim.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Go ahead.
- 18 BY MR. HARTMAN:
- 19 Q: Was that by some agreement with Clark
- 20 County, some contract arrangement with Clark County?
- 21 A. The Clark County government entered into a
- 22 contract with Tidewater Barge Lines approximately two
- years ago to have the Findley-Butes Landfill on-line
- 24 January 1, 1992.
- 25 Q. So as a disposal company, you're hauling it

- then to a transfer station where the county then
- 2 takes jurisdiction for the charges and moves it
- 3 beyond?
- 4 A. Correct.
- 5 Q. What's the situation with respect to
- 6 medical waste?
- 7 A. Our medical waste is being consolidated and
- 8 shipped to the incinerator facility that American
- 9 Environmental owns.
- 10 Q. Being Rancho Cordova, California?
- 11 A. I believe that's the case. I'm not for
- 12 sure exactly where it is going right now.
- Q. Do they do the transportation?
- 14 A. We do the transportation locally.
- 15 Q. And deliver it to them?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. At what point?
- 18 A. In our yard site.
- 19 Q. They pick it up in their equipment?
- 20 A. That's correct.
- Q. And as far as your designation, or any
- generator involvement in a designation, do you
- request that it be delivered or disposed of at any
- 24 particular point?
- 25 A. I don't think I'm qualified to answer that,

- 1 sir. I'm not for sure.
- Q. For instance, if American Environmental
- 3 should start transporting it to another disposal
- 4 site, would that affect your arrangement at all?
- 5 A. I don't know.
- 6 Q. Do you have a contingency plan should you
- 7 be unable to meet the requirements on a basis of
- 8 present disposal sites?
- 9 A. For what type of waste?
- 10 Q. Medical waste.
- 11 A. I don't know.
- 12 Q. And if I asked you what that plan was, I
- guess we'd get nowhere either.
- 14 So as far as your designation of a disposal
- 15 site on the medical waste, you generally leave that
- up to American Environmental?
- 17 A. Our operations people work with their
- operations people.
- 19 Q. Are you saying you don't know what the
- 20 details are?

•

- 21 A. That's correct.
- Q. Now this one to two percent -- excuse me.
- You had indicated in a response to one of
- 24 Mr. Johnson's questions that American is a competitor
- of yours. I'm curious as to how that comment

- 1 coincides with what you've just stated.
- 2 A. American is a competitor in the sense that
- 3 they have the ability to service the large, large
- 4 generators in the community.
- Q. Do they?
- A. And they have in the past, yes.
- 7 Q. Are they now?
- 8 A. I don't know.
- 9 Q. Well, as far as the medical -- again,
- 10 speaking just of the medical waste -- does this one
- 11 to two percent of the traffic that you have, has that
- been fairly constant, say, for the last year, or has
- 13 it grown or decreased?
- 14 A. Our medical waste revenue, and that is what
- 15 I'm referring to, the one to two percent of our gross
- 16 revenue, has grown over the past, I believe, 18
- months when we filed tariffs with the Commission.
- 18 Q. And is it correct that in the
- 19 transportation of this medical waste, you do maintain
- 20 a different service; and I'm talking about types of
- 21 equipment, driver personnel?
- 22 A. We have a designated van and driver and
- 23 safety equipment for transporting and handling
- 24 medical waste.
- Q. What is the plan, if you know, of the

24

25

to this afternoon?

1	county in respect to the segregation of medical
2	waste?
3	A. I don't know the answer to that question,
4	sir.
5	Q. Is it permissible to landfill in your
6	county?
7	A. I don't know the answer to that, sir.
8	MR. HARTMAN: Those are all my questions.
9	JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Finnigan?
10	MR. FINNIGAN: No questions.
11	JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Sells?
12	MR. SELLS: No questions, Your Honor.
13	JUDGE ANDERL: Mr. Wiley?
14	MR. WILEY: No questions.
15	JUDGE ANDERL: Anything on redirect?
16	MS. HORENSTEIN: I have a couple of
17	questions.
18	
19	REDIRECT EXAMINATION
20	BY MS. HORENSTEIN:
21	Q. Although you indicated you began working
22	directly for CCDI and Buchmann in 1985, were you

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wherein you obtain the information that you testified

somehow affiliated with another service provider

- 1 A. In January of 1984, I merged my accounting
- 2 practice with Moss Adams, a regional accounting firm
- 3 on the west coast, with offices in California, Oregon
- 4 and Washington. They have been providing -- Moss
- 5 Adams has been providing service to Clark County
- 6 Disposal, Inc., and Buchmann Sanitary Service, Inc.
- 7 for approximately 18 years, I believe.
- Q. And following up on one of Mr. Johnson's
- 9 questions inquiring as to the effect of the
- 10 competition CCDI and Buchmann have experienced with
- 11 American Environmental, are we looking not with
- 12 American Environmental as a regulated competition as
- opposed to Evergreen unregulated competition?
- 14 A. That is correct. American Environmental
- 15 has authority for service state-wide. Our medical
- 16 waste authority is only within the regulated tariff
- 17 areas as defined in our "G" certificate for providing
- 18 service.
- 19 Q. And although you alluded earlier that the
- 20 regulated carriers have a profit motive, is the
- 21 profit not limited, regulated somehow by the
- 22 Utilities and Transportation Commission?
- 23 A. The operating profit is regulated by the
- 24 Utilities and Transportation Commission using the
- 25 Laredo Gallagher Formula, which provides for a return

- on gross revenue and net capital investment before
- 2 interest and income taxes, and that margin currently
- 3 is slightly less than four percent for Clark County
- 4 Disposal, Inc.
- 5 MS. HORENSTEIN: Thank you. That's all I
- 6 have, Your Honor.
- JUDGE ANDERL: Anything further for this
- 8 witness?
- 9 MR. JOHNSON: Nothing.
- 10 JUDGE ANDERL: Thank you for your
- 11 testimony. You may step down.
- 12 (Witness excused.)
- My notes indicate that Exhibit 31 has not
- 14 yet been admitted, and that is the Administrative Law
- 15 Review article. Mr. Johnson, do you have any
- objection to the admission of that exhibit?
- MR. JOHNSON: No.
- JUDGE ANDERL: No?
- MR. JOHNSON: No.
- 20 JUDGE ANDERL: That will be admitted as
- 21 identified.
- 22 (Admitted Exhibit No. 31.)
- Is there anything further to come before us
- 24 today? I'd like to go off the record and discuss
- 25 briefs, and then go back on the record to memorialize

(COLLOQUY) 316

1	what we agree on. We'll go off the record.
2	(Discussion off the record.)
3	JUDGE ANDERL: Back on the record.
4	During our brief recess the parties agreed
5	that Mr. Johnson will file Respondent's brief on July
6	8th, or no later than July 8th.
7	The Commission staff and intervenors would
8	file a reply brief no later than the 17th of July,
9	and then Mr. Johnson would have an opportunity to
10	respond to those briefs no later than July 31st.
11	Is there anything further?
12	(No response.)
13	All right, then. We will stand adjourned.
14	(Hearing adjourned at 2:15 p.m.)
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1	CERTIFICATE
2	
3	
4	
5	As Court Reporter, I hereby certify that
6	the foregoing transcript is true and
7	accurate and contains all the facts,
8	matters, and proceedings of the hearing
9	held on: $6-11.92$
10	e
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13	Rebecca S. Cain
14	CONTINENTAL REPORTING SERVICE, INC
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