

using of telecommunications and their ability as educators to reach out to different parts of the state and different parts of the country with the best possible education that is available. This particular type of education is being used in several different states and the State of Nebraska has made some moves towards this particular type of education and this is a statement that we want to continue that move and that we are going to be a leader in the telecommunications for education in the United States. In my opinion, we have the ability through the technology that we have developed and utilized in the Educational Television Commission as it stands right now to more or less lead the United States and to supply this material to the United States at a very low cost and I would say that if we do not make this move at this present time, and make this statement to the educational community of the State of Nebraska, that we will be buying this type of technology from either private industry or other states. In my opinion, we have the opportunity to be the world class educational telecommunications center that will allow us to attract the best possible talent on the educational level that we would like to present from the State of Nebraska and to retain that talent by paying them adequate salaries. If we do not make this statement, this technology will still be developed and it will still be utilized by the State of Nebraska because the technology is available. The cost on this technology is dropping at a very rapid rate. So it is not a question of whether we are never going to use this or not or whether we are going to make this postsecondary education available out in the western part of the state, it is a question of whether we are willing to give the direction to the University of Nebraska, to the state college system, to the tech college system that we want this technology used for a possible savings of dollars for the taxpayers of the State of Nebraska as we provide more education, not less education, to all of the people of the State of Nebraska at a possibly greater lower cost. Mr. Speaker.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Harris.

SENATOR HARRIS: Yes, Mr. Speaker, I move that we adopt LB 645.