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Transcriber's Office

April 16, 1997 LB 686

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator, your time is up.

SENATOR BRUNING: ...thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Bruning. I'd like to announce that there are 83 fourth grade students from the finest legislative district in the state, which happens to be my own, in the balcony, from Pawnee Elementary School along with their teachers. (Introduces teachers.) Would you please stand and be recognized. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. The conversation sounded so good, I'm going to yield this time to Senator Bruning, if you'd care to continue.

SENATOR BRUNING: Thank you. Senator Coordsen.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Bruning, would you care to continue?

SENATOR BRUNING: Yes, I would. One of the other subjects we need to discuss is how will things change from the way the federal Universal Service Fund works now to the way the state Universal Service Fund will work in a year or two years? Right now with the federal Universal Service Fund, long distance companies, based on the number of subscribers they have, pay into the fund. AT&T has approximately 60 percent of the customers in the state of Nebraska, so they pay 60 percent of the Universal Service Fund, the total amount. It's administered federally. A check is cut and written directly to Consolidated Telephone Company. That's how the federal Universal Service Fund works now on behalf of Nebraska. How will it work once we have a state fund? Well, in Kansas, for example, they pay based upon the amount of state revenue within the state of Kansas. So US West, for example, at this point, has the most lines in the state of Nebraska, and I think that figure is about 517,000 lines, which represents a little more than half, so they will probably pay about half of the state Universal Service Fund. In Kansas, they also assess wireless carriers. All the cellular companies pay in to the Universal Service Fund as well, and as I mentioned, it is not just used for small towns, low density areas, where it's high cost to string a wire. It's also used for low-income people. They have a specialized equipment