

March 8, 1974

PRESIDENT: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: Are we there? It was my intent to recommend that if this were to be extended that it be extended to cover committee sessions, which I think is a very vital part of this Legislative procedure, which I don't think they see enough of.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Burbach.

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. Chair, I would gladly accept the amendment that Senator Simpson was speaking of and change or amend that motion up to an hour. I don't think they are going to have a problem of filling and hour, because as much as possible I know equipment is difficult to move, but there are certain hearings that could be covered while we are having public hearings. But more important than that, I figured it would be a great advantage to the people of Nebraska if a certain amount of the time was used in explaining what bills would be heard on what day and for what committee. This is one of the great things that could be done while we are in public hearings. We appreciate that each day the Sunday news.. each Sunday the Sunday newspaper carry a list of what bills will be heard on that week before the various committees. But I think that if ETV is watched and listened to at all, there would be a great place, and I think it would add to the listening group if the people of Nebraska knew what days what days a certain bill would be heard before a certain committee. And to elaborate on this. But I move to adopt...to amend the motion and say up to one hour. I move for the adoption of the amendment, and move that we adopt the Burbach amendment. Now remember the rest of you we are talking on the Burbach amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right, you just want to explain the amendment and let it go at that.

SENATOR BURBACH: I would ask the Clerk just to make that change in the amendment that I sent up there.

PRESIDENT: I'll allow it, because I don't think there are any objections. Senator Cavanaugh, then Carstens, Stahmer.

SENATOR CAVANAUGH: Mr. President, and members of the Legislature. I would oppose the Burbach amendment, even as amended. And I think that it has become increasingly apparent with regard to ETV and the relationship to the Legislature that we're approaching dangerous ground, I think with regard to controlling or mandating to ETV the kind of coverage that it is going to present with regard to the Legislature. Since we are the body that provides the funds to ETV, we are in an extremely advantageous position politically to a certain extent to dictate the kind of programing that they are going to present. I think that it raises a very serious question as to government control as to what is abstentionally a public service news information service. And when Senator Burbach rises and states that they could include other things in their program, I mean which I might personally agree with, I think it's a dangerous precedent for us as a Legislature to, be attempted to dictate to ETV what kind of coverage they are going to give to our activities. I think that it is a decision that they have to exert upon their own judgement, and use the integrity that should properly reside an individual in a anew setting. They should use the principals of good journalism in presenting what does transpire here in the Legislature if they are going to cover the