

January 22, 1979

SENATOR KEYES: Thank you.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, a question of Senator Koch.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Senator Koch, will you respond?

SENATOR KOCH: Yes, sir.

SENATOR COPE: I think the thought is very good. I am just wondering though that this is for two radio stations only?

SENATOR KOCH: That is correct, Senator Cope, one in Omaha which is given to them free through the Omaha Public Schools and one in Seward where they use the FM band and the only thing they pay for is the \$400 a year for the carrier line which they have to obtain permission to use.

SENATOR COPE: Well FM of course covers a very small area but I'm wondering if possibly it could be a foot in the door and before too long and I could see no reason why the rest of the state shouldn't have the same benefit and this \$31,000 could become quite a large sum. Is that correct?

SENATOR KOCH: Well, naturally, Senator Cope, it would be my hope that eventually the whole state would receive the advantage of a radio talking book because we do have blind people beyond the capacity of Seward. The capacity of Seward and Omaha, when you talk about its capability of sending and those who receive it, is fifty miles west of Seward which would get you to York approximately. From there on the rest of the state then of course is not entitled or cannot receive this service. Hopefully in the future as the priorities can be established they would extend it throughout the state but presently this serves two thirds of the blind and physically handicapped in the State of Nebraska.

SENATOR COPE: Thank you.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I wonder if I could ask Senator Koch a question please?

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Senator Koch, will you respond?