

January 22, 1979

SENATOR KOCH: Yes.

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator Koch, I, too, would like to commend you for bringing this before the Legislature and I do believe in the concept. I would like to ask a question along the same lines as Senator Cope's. Has the committee done any investigation into the cost of this program were it a service that would be offered at additional locations throughout the state?

SENATOR KOCH: Well the primary cost as I would understand it, Senator Cullan, would be that we would have some additional costs for the subcarrier lines that presently are being rented. As I mentioned a moment ago those are approximately \$400 a year and so if you were to place one of these additional outlets at say, Kearney and one in North Platte and possibly one other, I would imagine that the only major cost you would have would be for the carrier lines and for some additional staff. Presently they have only three paid staff members in this program. All other people who help are all volunteers, so I would anticipate it would be a significant cost in the future if it were to become virtually totally disseminated throughout the state.

SENATOR CULLAN: Thank you very much for your assistance, Senator Koch.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The Chair recognizes Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: I, too, have some questions of Senator Koch.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Senator Koch, will you respond?

SENATOR KOCH: Yes, sir.

SENATOR STONEY: Senator Koch, a number of the questions that I have have been addressed already but I was wondering once again for my edification, with the addition of the committee amendment and adding the physically handicapped, would you envision that there would be programs designed for the physically handicapped to be broadcast on these stations in addition to what we are attempting to do here for the visually impaired?

SENATOR KOCH: If I understand correctly, the physically handicapped, Senator Stoney, it is those people who have severe physical handicapping conditions that are not able to totally, shall we say read, because of these handicaps