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LB 458

for advertising in excess of what you would consider to be a normal need?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, I do, Senator Schmit. I think maybe you have a copy on your desk of some advertising that has been on the radio stations in the State of Nebraska and I consider it to be very wrong, yes.

SENATOR SCHMIT: I want to ask another question. I think you are aware of the fact that in recent days the Environmental Protection Agency has reduced by 50% the emission requirements for various power plants, automobiles and et cetera. In view of the fact that in the last three or four years the power companies of this state and other states have had to comply with very strict emission requirements, they spent hundreds of millions of dollars to comply with these requirements and one of the reasons for this was that certain groups were demanding that power companies in effect clean up the atmosphere. Now after several years of compliance by these power companies, we find that even the EPA says our demands are unrealistic. The question I want to ask you is this. Do you feel that in view of the fact that I will just say the environmental groups have attacked the power companies for dirtying the air, do you feel the power company just had to huncher down and take it or do they have a right or an obligation to the ratepayers to defend themselves so that they do not need to spend unnecessarily large sums of money as they have in the past?

SENATOR VICKERS: Let me put it this way, Senator Schmit. I think there is a difference between public relations, genuine public relations, telling the people exactly what they are doing or are going to do as opposed to telling the public what great people they are and that I think is the difference. That's, as I indicated earlier, in our Legislative Update that we publish from this body, we are attempting to keep the people of the State of Nebraska informed as to our actions and I hope that we don't turn that Legislative Update into a tool to tell the people of the State of Nebraska what great people we are, how we are so dedicated to serving them and so forth, and I think that is the difference and that is the reason I say that bill should go back to committee so we could discuss it more thoroughly and attempt to get the right language in it in committee. Quite frankly, I don't know what that language is going to be.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Thank you, Senator Vickers. I agree there