

March 26, 1981

LB 78

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Lamb. Senator Schmit. Senator Cope, you don't want to talk on the committee amendments. Senator Cullan, do you want to talk on the committee amendments again? Do you want to close on the committee amendments, then? The question before the House is the adoption of the committee amendments. All those in favor vote aye, all those opposed vote nay. Have you all voted? Once more, have you all voted on the committee amendments on LB 78? Record the vote.

CLERK: 20 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: The committee amendments are not adopted. Do you have any amendments on the bill? Senator Dworak, do you want to explain the bill?

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, this bill may have an unprecedented time limit. I think there have been three kill motions up there already before the committee amendments even got heard. That may be a new record. It is kind of ironic. This is really not a new concept in this country. It is educational radio. I might point out very sincerely, very specifically and very much to the point this bill does not call for one dollar of funding. There has not been any request in the Appropriations Committee to fund it. It merely establishes the authority and gives educational television that authority to transmit, broadcast through airways in the medium of radio as well as television. Now my major concern and my major reason for supporting this bill is that I think the people of Nebraska have a right, have an opportunity to intelligent news viewpoint and I think our current airways are very, very seriously lacking in that kind of in depth public discussion. Now I know many of us in this room would prefer the public back home not to know what is going on. I know many of us realize that our power rests with an uninformed public and this bill would allow that public to be better informed. And I think that is a very important, very critical factor in a democratic society. Now the argument will be brought up and the argument has been made in the past, well, here is a chance for, the opportunity for government to editorialize a particular news point of view and I say to you and I say to the people of Nebraska that there is absolutely no point of view that is not editorialized. It is impossible not to editorialize any point of view. We have four or five or six reporters sitting up and writing the story on the same debate, on the same speech and everyone of those reporters have slanted that speech as to their own background and to their own perspective. They can't help but do that and the only way you can truly totally find out what is happening is to get perspectives