

define what in this case is a freedom of a media to do not do something because it seems it doesn't take long before it gets amended down to even being more specific and I'm not even sure that I want to, by statute, try to define in a campaign when it's political or when it isn't. And I am more comfortable leaving it to the judgment of the commission to do that without trying to give statutory backing.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Higgins, please.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. How much time is left on this?

SPEAKER NICHOL: About five minutes.

SENATOR HIGGINS: In that case, I would be very quick to ask Senator Vickers a question. Senator Vickers, in reading the committee statement it says, the commission has no obligation to air the views or programs of state officers or employees, provide that it is unlawful, a misdemeanor, for an elected official to influence programming for personal gain or political benefit, would this bill then mean that if any TV asks senators to appear and discuss issues like I remember one time Senator Lamb and I were on together and they asked us both the same questions and to respond to them, would it also mean that they were going to do away with their short Legislative Review program in the evening?

SENATOR VICKERS: No, because the key is, NETV asked you.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Right.

SENATOR VICKERS: What this is saying is that you could not ask NETV to put a program on so that you could be on the air to hopefully influence your position.

SENATOR HIGGINS: In other words, but you're saying if I asked them and said, by golly, if you don't, I'm going to vote to cut your budget. That would be illegal.

SENATOR VICKERS: That's right.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Well, I've never asked them. Has there ever been any political advertising on NETV?