

Senator Johnson said, maybe a few people look on it as socialism or so on. Out beyond about York, Nebraska, or so on, we do not get public radio and this is very fine, and what this does is it simply just entails the people to get what funds and whatever sources that they can and to furnish and provide their own money. Particularly, in the western part of the state, this is important. And then I think one other thing that has not been talked on is this is also very important to the visually impaired. The radio talking books is a necessary and an important part of their life, and I think if at all possible without costing a lot of funds and so on, we would be very remiss to miss that opportunity and I just urge the body to support the amended bill.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I rise to support LB 461 as amended by the committee amendment. I want to clarify, and I am not sure whether it has been clarified for you or not because I have been busy on a few other things, but I want to clarify for those of you that may be questioning the way that the funding works under this federal, state, private mix. In order to use the federal funding, the federal funding only comes as a match of private funding for these types of operations. In other words, if there is not enough support locally to come up with some private funds to support this sort of a mechanism, then the federal funds will not come. So the burden is on, and that is the reason, quite frankly, the commission is very involved in their fund raising efforts that most of you are aware of on ETV, so the public radio mechanism would work the same way. The private funds have to come in before the federal funds come before there is any possibility, and I want to stress that possibility, before there is any possibility of any state funds being asked for at some future point in time. So what we are really saying is that there are a number of us in western Nebraska, well, not really western Nebraska, anything west of the reach of the radio station here in Lincoln, actually, and I don't consider that western Nebraska, necessarily, who cannot take advantage of the opportunity to tune into public radio. Now, that may seem inconceivable to many of you perhaps who listen to public radio on a somewhat regular basis. We do not have that opportunity, yet we are part of the public, if you will, not only of this state but the national scene. A lot of the programs on public radio originate from some