

surrounding areas. Now, we presently have public radio and it is working pretty good in those particular areas. There hasn't been any discussion as to why it works in Omaha and Lincoln but it can't happen in outstate Nebraska, why they can't make use of foundation funds or federal funds at the present time when we have two apparently viable public radio stations or three viable public radio stations currently operating in Omaha and Lincoln area. So, at this time, I think there is more than sufficient reason not to support LB 461, and until there is justification to support it, I think the disadvantages of the bill outweigh it and I urge the body not to advance LB 461. Thank you.

SENATOR CHRONISTER: If I may interrupt for just a second, I would like to announce to the body that if you have not already, you are about to partake in some delicious cake and I would like to advise you that this cake has been brought to the Chamber by our illustrious Speaker in recognition of his reaching another milestone. In looking at him, I hesitate to say how many miles there might be there but, anyway, let us all wish Speaker happy birthday.

SPEAKER NICHOL PRESIDING

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Baack, please.

SENATOR BAACK: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise to support LB 461 and I think, you know, Senator Abboud just gave a good reason as to why we should support LB 461 because he has stated that the two population centers, Omaha and Lincoln, already have it and so I think that we ought to be able to have access throughout the state to public radio. Either that or maybe what we ought to do is maybe we ought to come up with an amended version of this thing and we ought to outlaw public radio totally and take away the stations that are in Lincoln and Omaha. If we can't all have access to them, maybe we should take away all of the public radio in the State of Nebraska. And so I don't think that is a very good argument as to why we should not support LB 461. Another thing that he has stated in his argument was that it creates competition with local radio stations. I think the research, if you do some research into states that have a public radio system right now, I think you will find that in those states the broadcasting communities in those states support public radio because they have found that by having people turn to the public radio, they are now