

permissive, but I think there is enough commitment out there that people in rural Nebraska are concerned enough about what their needs are and how this might fill their needs that I think you will see an overwhelming amount of support for this. My area is extremely supportive of educational television. In my opinion, it has no impact at all on the success of commercial television. The two complement each other very nicely. Radio should do the same thing and Senator Baack has ably made those points. Let me just tell you what it is like to live in my counties in western Nebraska. If you live, for instance, within the municipal parts of my district, you get very good cable television from Omaha. We don't get a thing that originates in Omaha...cable television from Denver. We don't get a thing from Lincoln or Omaha. Imagine the difficulty you would have tracking this legislative process for one thing alone. We rely heavily on daily papers for whatever news we get and sometimes, of course, just due to the need for transmission of information on a shorter time basis it is very difficult, in fact, it's impossible to track the legislative process down here. I think public radio could go a long way in solving that problem. Beyond that, I think there are tremendous opportunities out there to deal with the challenges that rural Nebraska faces. We're all painfully aware of our declining budgets. We're all painfully aware, I think, of some of the changes that we're going to have to make, not just in Nebraska, but in all rural states to deal with current federal decisions. I would suggest to you that public radio will enable us to make better use of our scarce resources and continue to provide absolutely essential information to rural Nebraska and let me just give you a few examples of where I see those opportunities. Gramm-Rudmann would cut probably about 50 percent out of county extension agents and services. If that should happen, and even if it's only a 10 percent cut, that's going to be a devastating impact on the availability of technology and information to people in rural communities. Why couldn't we do that at a much lower cost over public radio if there are horticultural programs or other items that people in rural parts of the state need? The educational benefits are so obvious I hesitate to even touch on them, but let me just use one example. If you are a teacher in a school in rural Nebraska, it is very unlikely that you're going to have the opportunity to take your children to a symphony performance or many of the opportunities that are available in a larger metropolitan area. We're building the Lied Center for