

instance. Wouldn't it be great if public radio could be used to allow people all across the state to enjoy those performances of the arts that are going to be going on in the Lied Center without driving, three, four, five hundred miles to Lincoln to enjoy those? Another example, one of the programs that has been talked about to be eliminated on ETV is the Backyard Farmer. It's a very popular program. It serves its function very well and yet it seems to me it makes sense to talk about why not do that over radio rather than do a television production. Although that is a relatively modestly priced television production, I think it could be as effectively done at a more cost effective way, perhaps over public radio. There are numerous other examples where this will work. Some other people on the floor have alluded to other groups that this will benefit. The elderly will benefit by public radio. Blind and print handicapped people will benefit. Schools will benefit, but, most importantly, I think the individual citizen of Nebraska will benefit and that is simply because of the access to information that people in rural Nebraska simply do not now have and that they need if they're going to participate fully in our society. The essence of a democratic society is an informed individual participating in his or her government and to deny access to information that shapes our lives, leaves those of us out there in rural areas at the mercy of those who have the information that we don't have.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Fifteen seconds.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: That is intolerable. I urge you to bridge the gap between the east and west. I urge you to heal a few of the wounds between the east and west and I believe that public radio is a way to do that at no cost to current state budgets. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER NICHOL: The question is the advancement of the bill. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. We're voting on the advancement of the bill. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk, please. A record vote has been asked for. Now, they will come in.

CLERK: (Record vote taken as found on pages 1340-41 of the Legislative Journal.) 28 ayes, 8 nays, Mr. President, on the motion to advance the bill.

SPEAKER NICHOL: LB 461 is advanced. LB 782.