

can't come back in and have another bill and ask for funding. I don't know about you people, but I sure haven't had anybody call me and ask me to, over the years since I've been in the Legislature, asking or demanding public radio. It concerns me deeply that government considers itself a keeper of the people. That seems to be what this is applying to. Government cannot afford to be, nor should it be, the sugar daddy of every special interest group in our state or nation. And I think you would have to call public radio very special, a very small interest group. The small, so-called, public broadcasting cannot even muster 1 percent in any survey that I've ever seen or listened to to do this. Balanced with that, with the unbelievable increase in appropriations for ETV, and it is not hard to see that the majority of Nebraskans are paying for a service they neither need nor want. And I move for the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right. Senator Rod Johnson.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. President, members, let me begin by saying I don't believe a word Senator Peterson said. I feel very strongly that public radio, as well as public television, has a useful purpose in the State of Nebraska. He is correct in his assumption that this public radio bill, if passed, there is always that possibility down the road that the public radio industry may come in and ask for appropriations. But that is, of course, the responsibility of the Appropriations Committee to make that decision whether or not to fund, at any particular level, the public radio industry. But I vote on a lot of bills on this floor that I have had no contact from constituents on. In fact, I probably vote on more bills that I've had no contact on than I do on ones where I do receive contact. But I feel that the quality of programming that we receive now with public television, and in certain areas of this state, with public radio, is something that should be shared among the citizens of our state. It is something I think is worthwhile. And I think it offers an opportunity for us today, if this bill would be advanced, to begin to try and set up a system in this state to service all of the public and not just part of it, as it is now in the Omaha, Lincoln areas. I'll be very blunt. I will say that if you adopt this amendment, you have basically killed the bill. I would suggest a better route to go is simply to vote up or down on the bill on its advancement rather than delaying it by trying to take out this particular portion of the bill, which will substantially hinder the industry's ability to get started in this state. It takes away all authority of the state. I