

matter, that is their business. And this bill, with the amendment, will allow them to do that. All it does is to ensure that the present version of the bill will not involve state money. We have heard, many times, Senator Warner warn of the problems of future costs which a previous Legislature has enacted. And this is the case that is in point...on point. This is on point, that while there is no appropriation at this point, this bill would allow state funding of public radio in the future, unless you adopt this amendment. So I strongly urge you to adopt this amendment and go from there.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President, members, clearly this is an issue of whether or not we want the public to have a little more of information and input as to exactly what goes on in here. That is the question. That is the issue. There are those members of this body that would just as soon not have those cameras over in the corners. There are those members of this body that would just as soon not have cable available to the people in Lincoln and Omaha. There are others of us who would just as soon have cable available to the people across the State of Nebraska. But we recognize that that is not going to happen, at least not in the short-term. Maybe some day it will. It seems to me that one of the things that Senator Peterson said that I strongly disagree with is that he had not had anybody from up in his area that was very strong or asking for public radio. Well, that...it is strange because when I first got involved with this issue it was because of the comment made by an individual, who happens to live in his district, at a public hearing on this issue before the Education Committee a number of years ago. I'll relate the story to you. This young man said that he was a farmer, that he got tired of listening to easy listening, that he got tired of listening to country western, he got tired of listening to rock, occasionally he wanted to listen to something that was more stimulating, at least to him, and he could occasionally pick up Iowa public radio on his tractor radio. And, as a result, he was much more informed about the actions of the Iowa Legislature than he was about the Nebraska Legislature. He had listened in to public hearings, he had listened to floor debate, he knew the issues and knew what was going on in the Iowa Legislature. He asked if it would not be possible to use existing ETV towers that already have the capability of broadcasting around the State of Nebraska, across the State of Nebraska, if it would not be possible to use those towers to provide public radio so people like himself who, as he