

in the balconies, only in the case of radio at least they could be listening even though they couldn't see that sometimes we tend to not be paying a whole lot of attention, as is the case right now. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Senator Scofield.

SENATOR SCOFIELD: Thank you, Mr. President. This amendment, as Senator Johnson has pointed out, simply kills the bill. I object to that manner of proceeding here. If you have a problem with public radio, Senator Peterson, and Senator Hefner, and Senator Lamb, then why don't you just do it right up front and try to kill the bill? All this does is simply authorizes the public radio system in the state. There is no guarantee of state dollars. In fact, I've made a personal commitment to go out and help raise those private dollars and I'm convinced we can do it, because I do get calls from people in my district talking about the lack of information that is available to them, talking about the lack of diversity in terms of other kinds of programming that is available to them. They can tell you what is going on in Denver, Colorado. They can tell you what is going on in Wyoming. They can tell you what is going on in South Dakota. They don't have any idea what is going on in Nebraska. To adopt this amendment simply rules out the possibility of using the resources that we currently have in place. Essential to this is the use of the existing ETV tower system. It seems to me that these folks that are so concerned about the budget and fiscal conservatism would be interested in using what we have invested state dollars in more efficiently and to more effectively serve our public rather than denying the public the best use of their resources that are already in place, while not asking them to pay out any more state dollars. The special need for this is in the most rural areas of this state. If you've driven up Highway 2, or across those parts of rural Nebraska, which apparently the sponsors of this amendment, at least two of them, aren't familiar with, Senator Lamb should be, you know what is available to you out there in terms of information, you know what is available to you in terms of radio, and it is slim to none, particularly across some of those areas, folks. I've had calls from people who are elderly who are concerned about their need for information. There are many opportunities in educational areas for schools, particularly rural schools which this could help, the farmers that Senator Vickers has talked about. It would also benefit those folks who are visually impaired. The thing that I need to point out again, also, is if you look at where our budget is and what we