

are cutting, we are cutting the ETV budget right along with everything else. I have worked in television. I can tell you it is much cheaper to produce radio than it is to produce television. Much of the kind of information that is now being broadcast over public television, if the budget gets tighter, and I think it probably will, we can pick this up on a public radio system and produce the same kinds of information which are relevant to farmers and homeowners. A good example is Backyard Farmer, for instance, that is an extremely popular and useful program. There are many other examples out there that that information could be broadcast much more efficiently and cheaply than it currently is. And we may come to that. I think it is looking ahead to consider those opportunities. As I said, I'm convinced the public will support this with money right out of their own pockets. If Senator Hefner, Lamb, and Peterson have concern about a budgetary note coming through, I kind of think they are going to be here, and take a look at how many bills we've passed in this Legislature that we never have funded. You'll be here, you can examine that. You can keep us honest, if that is what your concern is. But to amend this simply rules out the most efficient use of our existing resources. It denies those folks in the most rural part of this state access to information which they need. It seems to me the best way for a politician to abuse power is to deny your constituents access to information about what is going on. And I think this would be a significant step forward in terms of letting people in the western part of the state have much more access and availability to the information and the political actions that go on in this state that they currently now have very limited access to. So I urge you to reject this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nelson.

SENATOR NELSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I, too, am against the Peterson amendment. I think Senator Scofield, Vickers, and most of them have said it all. I won't take too much time. Two or three things, though. He said that he had not...Senator Peterson said he had not had any contact from his area. I specifically remember reading a letter that went across my desk the other day, addressed to Senator Scofield, from the Norfolk radio station, vigorously opposing any competition and so on. The tones of that letter were not very mild. So I can see why Senator Peterson would probably need to stand up here and support their interests. We do need it outstate. The other day...Lincoln and Omaha have it, that is fine, but about Columbus and west, we've run out. One other portion of the