

April 3, 1986

LB 461

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The debate is now closed. Senator Peterson, you have an opportunity.

SENATOR PETERSON: Mr. President, members, well, Senator Rod Johnson said he didn't believe a word I said, and I don't believe a word he said. So we are even on that to start out with. One percent of the audience is all you see that really is interested in public radio. One percent is all, of every figures I've ever seen, that is interested in public radio. There is no demand for it out there that I see, 1 percent. And you can still use private money, and that is what should be done on this issue, as far as I am concerned. This doesn't kill the bill. It just says the state will not put any money in it. I think this issue, if it is passed without this amendment, in a couple of years it's going to be just like a number of other commissions or what's happened down the road, the Arts Council, the Status of Women, the Mexican-American, everything, you're going to be paying for it. If you vote for this bill, without this amendment, believe you me in a few years you are going to be paying for it because they are going to be coming in and asking for money. They sure as heck...I didn't see any debate that didn't say...didn't deny that they won't be coming in. And I'm told that even around Lincoln, you get out in east Lincoln you can't even pick up public radio. So if it...in a lot of areas around, after you get out a ways you can't even pick it up around Lincoln in a lot of areas. If you look, there was mention about the university even coming in and opposing it, and commerce and industry both oppose this bill. I just urge you that I see no demand out there. I think by striking the word "state" it doesn't kill the bill, it just simply says the state cannot fund...shouldn't fund it. I ask for the adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: The motion is the adoption of the amendment offered by Senator Peterson...

SENATOR PETERSON: Excuse me, I yield to...Senator Higgins wants to use up the rest of my time. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: There are three minutes left. Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I voted for this bill on General File because I felt that the people in western Nebraska deserved the same as the people in Omaha and Lincoln.

11323