

should, I think, be emphasized. One is the fact that western Nebraska has kind of gotten the short end of the stick in a lot of ways. It is a sparsely populated area and the people are widely separated. They don't have a lot of money now because of the state of the agricultural economy and they don't have the numbers to really be politically potent enough to get consideration at the national level. In fact, the whole State of Nebraska falls short in that regard. But when it comes to the Legislature dealing with a specific area of services, something can be done to bring about equity and I think it would be inequitable to cut these funds. I have a curse upon me. I read newspapers, and when you read newspapers, as critical as I am sometimes of editorialists, of reporters, and different things, you do find some things that catch your attention, and in the Lincoln Star this morning, I found an article under this headline, Trailways Drops Bus Service To Part Of Western Nebraska. From McCook through Imperial, Senator Haberman, Senator Haberman, Senator Haberman, oh, never mind, somebody can tell him, from McCook through Imperial, on out to Colorado, Trailways did a dastardly thing, they cut that service apparently without even notifying the Public Service Commission. Didn't even tell them, just cut it. And I think what Trailways had been doing is watching the Legislature, and they said, now, western Nebraska is a part of the state, apparently, but from the brain center on the northeastern side of the state, which is the head, looks at the Panhandle like the tail, and kicks it. So if the top part of the body is going to kick the bottom part, why should we, as outsiders, give any more consideration than those officials in the state give it? So they just cut that service. It is being looked into now to find out why they did it. Trailways said they are going to cut all service in Nebraska in April anyway, but even should they do that, they have not complied with what the law requires them to do before they take a step like this, and they have done it in other states, probably the portions of those states that don't give them a lot of money and don't command a lot of attention from the more populous areas of the state. I don't think we should adopt the Trailways philosophy toward western Nebraska, that they are out there and they don't count. They do count. One person has no more intrinsic value or less intrinsic value if he or she is alone in western Nebraska than one person among 500,000 in the metropolitan Lincoln-Omaha-Bellevue area. If we look at what people should be entitled to, the state would see that it has as much obligation to deliver the same quality of services wherever in the state that those services are offered as they do in any other part of the state. I don't think