

January 15, 1973

SENATOR CARSTENS: Can you answer that Senator, is this necessary, or is it required that the station show a half hour a day or is that -

SENATOR CARPENTER: It is entirely optional whether they are privately owned television station wants to broadcast or not, this has nothing to do with the Legislative Council. They had no part on the considering it was brought about by a motion that I put on the Clerk's desk which you adopted. And it also allows the privately owned television station to have it commercially sponsored if they can find those people who would like to do it as a public service. I would like to say this, if you don't want to do it, let's just cut it all out, and when this gets through I will make a motion after Senator Carstens get through to amend his motion to eliminate it all with the understanding and I'll vote against my own motion, or to keep it as it now is.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Mr. President, I do not know and I do not believe anybody really knows what the value of this is at the present time and I don't, I really don't know how to vote, it has a lot of disadvantages, but I, it seems to me that in the interest of bringing the Legislature to sessions of the state and areas of the state that never have an opportunity there are literally thousands of people in this state who haven't the vaguest idea what goes on, on this floor. If we have a moment lapse, get involved into something that is what we used to call the first session I was here, ludicrous, it gets a lot of coverage and this is the image people over the state have about this legislature and I think there may be some value in it, and I would like to see this tried on a matter of two weeks or so and then have the commercials station that, directly and responsibly to see what the commercials station reaction to this is and whether or not they want this, and if they don't want it what the listeners or the viewers reaction to is, and if the viewer reaction and the public reaction to it is worthwhile, maybe we can continue it. I would not want to have it displayed All in the Family or some of the more important television shows on the circuit, but I do believe that it might be a place in here for some of this if it will do some good among the younger people, among people who have a completely erroneous wrong image of this legislature, the image of the legislature can best be determined by looking at the election results in the last election when three constitutional amendments were badly defeated including one which denied to us even the right to be eligible for a pension to which we contribute ourselves. And I don't even want to mention the terrible idea about the salary raises or the per diem thing because that's clear out of the window and I think this is evidence of how little the public understands this legislature and if we can do something to improve this image, or improve the fact of the situation maybe we ought to try it for once.

SPEAKER: The Chair next recognizes Senator Marsh and then Senator Stahmer, then Senator Snyder. Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: It is my understanding that we would not be putting out any more dollars, but I think this body should be aware that some of the planned programs will have to be cut in order not to spend any more dollars to do this television programming of the legislature every day.

SPEAKER: Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, members of the body, I think that Senator Carstens raised some interesting points about the possible continuation of this and then trying to determine how many people indeed would be watching it. I think if we were to continue it for two weeks and take a poll of the audience and see how many people really are watching it I think this