

April 3, 1975

I rise in opposition to the kill motion by my friend and neighbor Senator Dworak. I think the kill motion is ill timed. I think that Senator Marvel's comments which go back to the history of the ETV programming and the organization are very much in order. I think that from time to time all of us fail to recognize that as members of this body it is easy to legislate and to create, and it is easy to mandate. And then we forget. We do not go back and have what is properly ours: the legislative oversight, or the legislative review, so to speak, of that which we have created. And, I would like to suggest and I have not, nor did I anticipate the kind of opposition to the program, to the bill frankly, which has been engendered here today. But I have asked my clerk to locate for me a copy of the programming of the Educational TV. She did call out to the commission and was unable on the spur of the moment to get a copy of a single day's program from the person to whom she called. I believe, this is not to say anything against that individual because it was, perhaps, not that person's job, but I believe that we should always, at all times, not forget our responsibility to review the programs we have created, to determine if they are performing as directed by that body which enacted them. From time to time we find ourselves in the position of being the servants of that which we have created. This body is the body which does the mandating. This body, the 49 of us, are the ones who are responsible to the people. When trouble brews, or when something develops in State Government that is not good, we do not find that agency taking the heat. We find the elected people taking the heat. The people who sit in these chairs, and that is right. Justifiably so. That is why we are hired, that is why we are here. If we are afraid to do that then we should not be here. By the same token if we cower before the agencies, if we refuse to say, "You are not doing that which we intended you to do," then I think perhaps, we have abdicated our responsibility. I would hope that you would defeat the motion. I know that Senator Dworak is as interested in the program as most of us are. And I'm sure that he will be able to contribute with other members of this body toward another review of ETV. And I am sure, and again this is no condemnation of the network or the program or the commission, there was no opposition by the ETV persons to this bill. They supported the bill. They supported the idea. They welcomed it in fact. So, therefore, I would suggest that perhaps the ETV network might, like children, welcome some guidelines from time to time. And that is our responsibility. And if, after a period of time you should decide to bracket the bill and defeat this motion, if after a period of time we decide that it is not needed; then I would not hesitate in joining you in killing the bill. But I would ask you not to kill the bill at this time but rather that you defeat Senator Dworak's motion and then perhaps bracket the bill, and spend some time with members of my committee and other members of this body who are sincerely interested along with the ETV commission and its personnel in improving the quality of programming in the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.