

SENATOR DWORAK: Senator Kahle, and I just gave my copy of my amendment away but my amendment very definitely specifies that no new public radio stations shall be established without the authorization of the Nebraska Legislature so nothing can be slipped in. That is the reading of the amendment.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well, it won't die if it is passed. Okay, I yield.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: As one of the three sponsors of the bill, I would move for its advancement. The Dworak amendment diminishes what this bill had intended to do considerably. When we first brought the bill before the education committee and it was heard by Senator Lamb and Kahle and Fitzgerald and Koch and so on, we came with a specific plan for public radio. We came with a specific identified areas that should be covered. We came in requesting a program that should be established this year. Now in visiting with Senators, there were people who felt that it may be a good idea, as Senator Clark says, that it is a nice idea and something we ought to try but that there were unanswered questions. We found problems with our plans specifically with the existing public radio stations in Omaha. We found that perhaps the suggestion that the four state colleges be the ones to have the transmission stations was not necessarily feasible or that there were alternatives. So what Senator Dworak is proposing is that we study the issue further, that we not adopt a specific plan. Now why can't this be done by a legislative study resolution? Because the study is not being done by the Legislature. It is being done by those with the technical expertise to understand this issue. Now there is a lot of kind of broadcasting technical questions about location of transmitters, conflict with existing stations, how we can integrate the program with the Omaha radio stations that exist, that are beyond the expertise of this Legislature and, therefore, a simple study resolution for the Education Committee, for example, to solve this problem would not bring any further light on the technical questions. And so what Senator Dworak has come up with is an amendment that would require those who have the expertise, the commission, which is the ETV Commission, public institutions and public radio stations of Omaha, and institutions of higher education to get together to see if these problems could be worked out. That is why it has to be statutory. That is why a legislative resolution would be inadequate. Now Senator Dworak read the line that makes it clear that we are not authorizing anything new without the Legislature, without coming back to the Legislature, and that phrase in the Dworak amendment is "No new public radio stations shall be established without the authorization of the Nebraska Legislature." Passage of this bill guarantees that this Legislature will control if and when, if ever, new public radio stations would be established in the state. That control remains with the Legislature. It changes no circumstances. All it calls for now is that those who are involved, those who have the technical skills do a study as to the technical aspects