

January 22, 1979

LB 124

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Is there any discussion on the committee amendments to LB 124? If not, all those in favor of adopting the committee amendments to LB 124 vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Voting on the committee amendments to LB 124. Record the vote.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays on the adoption of the committee amendments, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The committee amendments are adopted. We will now go to the bill on General File as amended. The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, the purpose of this bill is to allow the continuation of radio talking books which is carried through radio. Presently we have two stations that carry this program, one in Omaha and one in Seward. The program was originally financed and carried out through a grant from the federal government. The grants, after three years, naturally have been expended and so now it becomes necessary for the State of Nebraska to look seriously at the possibility of assuming some of the financial responsibility. There is a fiscal impact of approximately \$30,000. It would be given to the budget of the Department of Institutions for the purpose of contracting with the two stations that presently carry radio talking book. Those two stations, one of them located at Omaha, is KIOS-FM and one located in Seward which is KSRD-FM. The radio talking book, in case you are not familiar with it, is for those people who are blind and those who may be physically handicapped in other ways that they are not able to gain information. The radio talking book is a seventy two hour a week radio program which is informational primarily in nature. The gentleman who manages this is Mr. Paul Parker from Omaha and they are desirous of initiating a contract with the Department of Visual Services in the Department of Institutions for the purpose of carrying on and perpetuating a radio talking book. In case you are not also familiar with this, the people who are blind and handicapped receive a receiver through the federal government, F.C.C. This receiver then is placed in the home of those who need it and thereby they are able to take advantage of the FM station carrying the program. It is not as some people think, an entertainment program. It is primarily, totally informational. They will read from newspapers, generally from the World Herald and from the Lincoln Star daily. They also give to the blind people different kinds of information that pertains to shopping and pertains to fashions, this type of information. The committee saw fit as you