

there at all.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Senator Lamb, and I am sure that those other bills that came before our committee this year were just to stir conversation and get some issues pointed out, and with that, I would urge the body to support the committee amendments. Thank you.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Thank you. Senator Rogers, please.

SENATOR ROGERS: Mr. Speaker and members, and particular, Senator Hall, I would like to make a couple of comments that maybe he should come out to Ord, Nebraska or Anselmo and spend a little time because sometimes there is no other entity that will provide services. You people that live in the large metropolitan areas, you have the availability of a lot of services that we don't, and one other comment. Someone mentioned about REA funds. They cannot be used in any way, shape, or form to provide this TV service. The cost and the revenues are totally separate from the REA funds as far as providing utilities.

SPEAKER BARRETT: Senator Rod Johnson, please.

SENATOR R. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members, I suppose I rise to clarify some of the points that I made with regards to this issue. It has been pointed out to me several times during the course of this debate that I don't understand the needs of our rural customers in the state as far as television programming is concerned. Quite frankly, when I was living with my brother back long before I became a member of this Legislature, back in the late '70s or early '80s, we were one of the first to install a satellite dish in our particular area of the state. So I do understand the problems that rural customers have even though I now live in town. I do get cable service that is provided in the community I live in, but my father and my brothers all have the satellite dishes. They are all complaining about the problems that they have with the descrambling of many of the premium channels, such as HBO, Cinemax, Showtime, the whole works, so I am sympathetic to that need. The point that is yet to be proved to me is exactly how the REAs, how the rural public power people are going to provide this service more cost effective to the rural customer than any private enterprise at this point. There are descramblers on the market that you have to, I believe, buy and, of course, subscribe to the various premium channels that you might want to belong to, and you pay,