

Hefner.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I don't think ignorance benefits anybody other than a tyrant. Hitler had made a remark to the effect that the greatest ally a tyrant has is the ignorance of the people. And it's kind of interesting to look at the people who are opposed to knowledge being made available and accessible to people who don't have it. Sometimes I look at those in this body who are opposed to education and sometimes those who don't have a commodity or haven't had contact with it fail to understand and appreciate the value of it. So because they were left in a straitjacket of ignorance, they want everybody else to be ignorant. I would like the people in western Nebraska to have access to the information that comes by way of public radio that is available to us on this side of the state. I used to listen to KFAB coming down here all the time before I had an FM radio put in my car. The coverage is shallow. It covers the state like a thin film of water about a centimeter deep. There is nothing when it comes to a very important issue of the day that KFAB offers that can be called news. There are little one-line summaries of what is going on in the world and if you don't listen to these stations all the time, you think there is going to be a follow-up in depth presentation which never comes. They destroy you with the advertisements, used car dealers, loan sharks. The kind of people who would buy the stuff that is advertised on commercial radio indicates why a lot of people who want public radio won't listen to a commercial radio. You listen to all of the scams they have. This is a person selling you furniture and you can look at it on, I won't mention the name of the boulevard in Omaha, and I call it a boulevard but it's really not a boulevard, it's sitting out on the sidewalk so you can look at it as you drive by. It's exposed to the elements, dust gets on it. So this is, obviously, an attempt to get people who don't really know how to get the most for their dollar when they purchase furniture. KFAB does not screen any advertisements nor do they have any concern for the consumer. They will put anything on that radio that somebody will pay for. The aim of the businesses that call themselves broadcasters is to make money just like that of the newspapers is to make money. The hand that feeds controls the stories and the slants given to publications. Whether it's in the print media or broadcast information will be determined, to some extent, by the sponsors. They will control, and that's why you have this nonsensical music, a thousand ads and very little of intellectual substance.