

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Right now the only manned flight service station we have in the entire state is in Columbus, and that is it.

SENATOR CONWAY: And there is a center in Grand Island which is some automated system, I assume.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Well, basically, what you have in Grand Island or North Platte or Scottsbluff or anywhere is a frequency of which you can go (a) through the VORs, as you are aware of, Senator Conway. You can go through the VOR, through a local transmitter, and get to Columbus through that VOR frequency. So you can talk to Columbus on various frequencies. The problem that we have in central and western Nebraska is there are areas that you simply can't reach or talk to and they are just dead areas, but that is the only way to get to them at that point.

SENATOR CONWAY: Then Columbus is, in essence, the only manned flight service station, and yet it is getting its information from the areas around the state. In what means do they receive that information?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Okay, they will receive from the weather reporting stations, whether it be Sidney, Imperial, O'Neill, Wayne, what have you. They will report the weather by the hour and put them in, and hourly then put them into their computer, and they will go to the National Weather Service, and then they will take...the flight service station will take that on the hour from those weather reporting sites.

SENATOR CONWAY: So in terms of the communication the pilot has with someone on the ground, no matter where he is at, he is really talking, if he is dealing with flight service, he is talking to Columbus?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: That is right, and, Senator Conway, to clarify even further, I may have made a siting, I may have made my observation in Imperial, Nebraska, on the hour, but, unfortunately, 20 minutes after the hour it changed. You will not note that in Columbus until up on the hour again unless you have a special National Weather Service that would come out with a special, which is only in Scottsbluff, North Platte, and the major areas.