

February 17, 1993 LB 452

River Valley, and they are doing a water quality study of the Republican River Valley in collaboration with the other schools. The ability to access this information...the information that you're able to access if almost boundless. The problem we have is not with the technology, the problem we have is how we get this technology to every citizen in the state. This bill probably will not benefit any of my constituents one iota. My constituents can simply dial a local telephone call and...and access the...the information as it exists in Omaha. For a student, though, in Harrison, Nebraska, or in Sidney, Nebraska, they have to make a long distance phone call all the way into North Platte, or into Lincoln, or into Omaha. What this would do, it would set up the educational service units, which are the intermediate level of education service in Nebraska, as the...the term is sometimes multi-protocolrouter, I'm sorry, I probably mispronounced that word, I apologize, protocol. I'm sorry, I should not try to read these things, I should probably just talk from memory. But a router system, a nodal system where people can call and they can access the Internet system. So that's what the bill does. It will move this education revolution, I think, one step further out into the rural communities in our state, and I would urge you to support it.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Withem. Does anyone wish to speak to this bill? Mr. Clerk, amendment on the desk.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Senator Withem, are you ready to offer your amendment now?

SENATOR WITHEM: I'd like to offer the SEN amendment now, if I could please.

ASSISTANT CLERK: The amendment is found on page 537.

SENATOR WITHEM: The amendment basically does two things. It calls for the purchase and planning of this equipment to be done in conjunction with a statewide plan, so that we don't end up with one ESU buying one sort of equipment and another one buying another sort of equipment, and finding that they don't communicate well to each other. Secondly, it allows the educational service units to enter into interlocal cooperation agreements to carry out this section. This, hopefully, will allow...Senator Bernard-Stevens was just asking me about North Platte, where they already do have one of these routers in operation. It would not force then the Trenton ESU to duplicate