

March 26, 1981

LB 78

said that how I feel about it hasn't changed. I have given this speech every year since I have been down here. I support the kill motion. I think it is something we can get along without in Nebraska.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the body, I am not going to get as emotional as Senator Haberman. I am going to shoot directly from the hip. I don't call this "public radio". I call it "government radio". And the reason I am calling it government radio is because the taxpayers are picking up the dollars to support it. I think that in a free society as we have here that having public radio or government radio can be very dangerous. I oppose government radio because of three or four reasons and I just want to cite a few of these. The first one is added taxes. We all know that it costs money to run radio stations. This is true even if we do plug in on the ETV towers and through their mechanical means. All costs keep going up from year to year. Salaries go up. Repairs go up. New equipment goes up, and so public radio would certainly go up. Look at the impact, the fiscal impact statement in the front of your bill book. It is tremendous over a number of years and I am surprised that a staunch conservative such as Senator Dworak would even think about bringing this bill to us. If government radio budget is to come from the ETV budget as has been suggested, then the ETV budget would certainly have to be increased. And have you listened to our ETV station lately? They certainly are spending a lot of time appealing for more money. Another reason that I support the motion to indefinitely postpone this bill is additional bureaucracy that it will create. Here we have appointed officials, appointed officials that is controlling our ETV and would control public radio. Those on the ETV board will have a lot of power if they control both ETV and public radio. We realize that most federal agencies start small but in a few years they have grown out of proportion. Look at how much our ETV budget has grown. Senator Haberman said 18,000 percent. Well, I didn't figure it up but I know in the last decade that they have grown nearly 400 percent. Another reason that I oppose public radio is because it is in competition with the free enterprise system and the free enterprise system has made this nation great and so I think we want to look very carefully at it. The free enterprise businesses serves the public better and with less cost than any government agencies. Private business pays taxes. It does not cost the taxpayer. And so today I ask you to please support the kill motion on LB 78. We need fewer government agencies instead of more. We need lower taxes instead of