

March 30, 1981

LB 78

money that was going to General Motors out of federal tax dollars was \$370 million. Now here again this is all right, but we should never promote an intellectual approach to the media with federal dollars. You have all heard public radios. You have watched public television, and I can quote you some very good educational programs that come through public television that our young children watch and it received the accolades of the nation as a whole about how the format is presented. Here we are worried about dollars one more time in the private sector. Sure, 75 percent of the money going to public radio will come from federal funds. I read the President's budget message about reducing that amount, but we are not saying it is going to be done tomorrow. We are saying it is going to be done in phases, phase 1, 2 and 3, and this would be done over a period of years. It is not going to happen tomorrow but certainly there are areas in the State of Nebraska that could use public radio. Every person has a right to their opinion, but no person has a right to be wrong in their facts and I want you to remember that, because oftentimes views presented by the private sector, whether it be radio, television or newspaper, is an opinion. That's all it is, and seldom do you ever see the other side of it unless you write a point of view or you might appear or asked to be placed on a program to counter that point of view. I will suggest to you that this nation spends a great deal of dollars in sponsoring radio free Europe. We have been doing it for years. In fact, Edward R. Murrow, if you remember that great name in radio broadcasting, was one of those people who helped promote it, and that's... we're trying to get the truth to Europe as it relates to political, social and economic conditions. One more time we are about to take on public radio because we believe that it is going to present slanted news and that is not true. I read to you from the Kearney Daily Hub, a newspaper that we are all familiar with to some extent. Quoting from one of the editorials, they state: "Public radio programming is informative, stimulating and enriching. It's thorough news reports often deal with subjects not covered anywhere else. It's interviews and discussion provide special information on agriculture, business, government, culture, music and many other offerings generally not available to the general public." Many of us today are concerned about our elderly and people who are homebound. Here is one chance for us to help them, provide them with programs that are indeed enriching, give them a point of view they often do not get. And for us to stand here today and say we are willing to indefinitely postpone LB 78 without good cause I think is not to our