

March 30, 1981

LB 78

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Speaker and members, I rise to oppose the kill motion on LB 78, and I can tell you quite honestly I wouldn't if it did have a large A bill to it. Some concern has been raised here about the costs of public radio and I share those concerns as I think Senator Dworak does. But I would like to, for a minute, tell you about some of the thinking, some of the changes in thinking I guess, that has brought about my support of LB 78. First of all, those that are worried about the costs, many of them that are worried about the additional costs that might be incurred down the road, they realize there are no costs now. It was mentioned the other day that perhaps there should be a cost right now so we would understand exactly what we are spending. I raised that same issue on another bill the other day, a week or so ago, that we should know exactly what we are doing before we start down the road, and those same people were on the other side of the issue at that point in time. Now they don't want to do it even though there is no cost. At the public hearing of LB 78 there was a young farmer from up in the Norfolk area came in and told the story about how he would like to be informed as to what we are doing here in this body. And coming from a part of the state where we don't have any public radio whatsoever, I guess I could really relate to that, when he explained that in the spring of the year when he is busy with his farming operations, he doesn't get an opportunity to watch ETV at 10:30 at night. He is either out doing chores yet or is so tired that he has already gone to bed, which many people in rural Nebraska go to bed a little bit earlier than people down here in the urban areas of the state, I guess. Many of my constituents don't get to stay up and watch what television shows we have done. But this young man indicated that he could, by fine tuning his radio in his tractor, pick up the public radio station from Ames, Iowa, and he spent many an afternoon out there on his tractor in the spring of the year listening to what goes on in the Iowa Legislature, live from floor debate to committee hearings. And he told us that he knows a lot more as a result about what is going on in Iowa than he does in his own state. You know, that really brought a good point home to me. We have the Unicameral Update and I have made that available to a good many of my constituents and I think it is a good idea. Let's tell them...let's let them know the truth. Let's let them know what we are doing both pro and con. And I see nothing wrong with having a system whereby live floor debate could be broadcast to the people of the State of Nebraska if they so chose to listen to it. I, personally, would much rather have