

March 30, 1981

LB 78

SPEAKER MARVEL: Well, I am going to use my prerogative of rejecting that at the moment because the Chair has tried very carefully to balance out the discussion. I think what I will do first of all...Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature. I rise in support of the kill motion. I very seldom find myself at cross purposes with Senator Dworak but in this case I feel that I must speak in favor of the kill. Senator Dworak reminds us to vote as our constituents would have us vote. My mail is overwhelmingly against LB 78. Senator Dworak has indicated that 78 would simply create an authority, simply create an authority for public or government radio. In my humble opinion, at least, this is a foot in the door to create the authority. I believe that Senator Chambers hit the nail right on the head when he said, public money must be spent, public money must be spent somewhere down the line. And this is my real concern. Despite the fact that we don't have an A bill on LB 78, why create the authority now? Why don't we wait? Why don't we wait until funding is perhaps more realistic? I urge you to support the kill motion. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise in support of public radio, LB 78, and I am opposed to the kill motion. It has been mentioned on the floor today that public radio is government radio, and I would like to read from some of my correspondence that I have received, and in looking over all of my correspondence, I would say a good share of it that is against LB 78 has come from the private commercial radio networks and their people, but I have also received considerable letters in support of LB 78. This one letter says: "What LB 78 calls for is not government radio but radio that is an alternative to commercial broadcasting. It is not anti-enterprise. Indeed, under new rules of the Federal Communications Commission many of the restrictions under which commercial radio stations have operated have been eased. If there were a network of full service public radio stations in Nebraska, the commercial stations might have to worry even less about the need to carry public affairs and public service programs. This responsibility would be largely shouldered by public stations." When I took a look at LB 78 and what it proposes, I see that really we're setting up a mix in radio broadcasting that could be mutually complementary. As a youngster born in 1942 I grew up with radio, private radio at that