

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would rise to oppose the amendment even though a great many of you I suspect know and certainly Senator Cullan knows this particular amendment I probably have had on my desk for the last five or six years, that someone wanted to offer it from time to time, but I have always refrained from really pushing it for one simple reason and I had it at my desk for another simple reason. I had it in my desk because I, too, share the idea and I am going to talk longer now than I probably should because it is covered by TV both commercial and private. And I have the suspicion that happens to all of us from time to time, and I can tell you when TV coverage was one...started out it was one day a week and I can tell you those of you, Senator Kremer can remember, the maneuvering to get your bill to come on each TV day was one of the more important things that we had to resolve in order to get things taken care of. But I always kept it at my desk because I do think the end affect of the adoption of this amendment will be interpreted only one way that somehow or other no matter how well the commercial and the other media covers us that somehow or other we don't want to have that additional exposure and I think if you don't want to do it this way, maybe some other exposure in addition to what we already have is appropriate, but I cannot support the amendment totally, on the basis I think it does contribute an additional source of information, and many times in depth, and I want to also say I don't like all the programs they have either. They don't present my side of the issue just the way that I would like to have it presented all the time nor should they, and the last thing we do as a public body is attempt to influence any type of reporting on this Legislature whether it by a public or the private sector that we try to influence their independent decision through a budget process. I cannot think of anything that would be more...destroy a democracy system if that was once started. It almost flies in the face of the amendment to the United States Constitution relative to the freedom of the press. So I would hope that you vote down the amendment not only because of the purpose it serves, but more importantly how it would be interpreted by the public.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I, too, rise in opposition to the amendment Senator Cullan and the other Senators who have cosigned it are offering. I think many of us are going to be concerned about this issue. It affects us directly. My personal feeling is that Educational Television has served a very important function in covering this Legislature. I wasn't around when they started the one day a week effort and I don't know much about that, but I do know as a young person who followed the Legislature just out of curiosity that without the coverage of ETV and the sort of work that was done to try and bring the issues of the Legislature to the people of the state, I think I would be much less informed then and I think the people are that way now. And I think ETV although there may be concerns about