

different public policy concerning a public television coverage, nevertheless in the efforts I have seen in my door to door campaign in this last year I have discovered that despite newspaper, despite radio, despite commercial TV, despite public TV there are so many people out there that do not know what we do in this Legislature, do not know what the issues are before our Legislature, and it seems to me that one of our responsibilities as representatives of this state is to educate the public about concerns that we face with the issues of our time. And it seems to me that one of the ways to educate the people of this state is through ETV as one of the different avenues. Now it is not the sort of avenue that is going to reach everybody. It is going to reach a certain number of people and it is going to be those people that benefit from the fact that they have that opportunity to follow the Legislature. But there are other ways. The press is here. The other media are here and they are also very important to the effort that we have in trying to reach the people about what we are facing in the State of Nebraska. We are the voice of the people of the state. We are the deliberative body of this state, and I think we have to be very cognizant of our responsibility to help educate the people about the issues that we face. Cable TV is now expanding across the state. One of the things that we are seeing in Lincoln right now is live gavel to gavel coverage of the Legislature through the ETV coverage. That is the only way they could possibly do that, and I think as you see Cable expand to more and more channels you may be able to see more gavel to gavel live coverage of the debates on the floor, and I think that doesn't draw a large audience. We are not the exciting show that you might find elsewhere on TV at these times, but for those people who care, for those people who are concerned it is a great opportunity for them to follow our body and to learn more about the issues and to become involved as citizens. I think it is unfortunate to even be considering this amendment at this time. With the deficit that we face, with the economic troubles that we are in, with the different major problems that we are now addressing it seems to me that by having ETV coverage and by having the opportunity to help the people understand better these complex issues that we are confronting, then I think that is important and not to be forgotten, and I think we don't want to go back to the old back room days where all the decisions are made and then the public has those decisions sprung on them without much chance for them to follow those decisions in the process that they follow. So I think all those changes have opened up the body and made us more accountable and unless we communicate to the people and let them know better what we are doing, I think we are not serving the state as best we could.

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, I also rise to oppose the Cullan motion. I would like to make a few points about the program that I think are relevant. Then I would like to make a major policy sort of question that I think we as a Legislature have to look at during this session, this special session of the Legislature. But first the program. Capitol View is one of the more popular programs and I am sure that most of you as individuals have had an opportunity at one time or another to discuss with constituents the