

importance of the program. I know that I have had a few of what I call political junkies that watch it all the time and those political junkies, if you will, have found it a most valuable source of information. But the program is very popular. It is one of the more popular programs, and, in fact, of the viewers, of ETV viewers, 30 percent of those in Lincoln watch the program. In Omaha it is somewhat less with 12 percent. But outstate Nebraska it is 21 percent, nearly one-fifth and that is understandable I think because ETV tends to serve them better. There is a high interest level in Lincoln. But of those that watch the program, 23 percent believe it is an excellent program; 54 percent believe it is a good program; 17 percent believe it is a fair program; only 3 percent believe it is poor and none believe that it is a terrible program. The important thing is that of the people that do watch the program 37 percent find it very important; 11 percent find it somewhat important, and only about 4 percent find that they gain very little from the program. These are the kinds of things that viewers have indicated about this program and I think it is an important program. Senator Wesely indicated, and I think wisely, that in fact it looks and the appearance will be that we want to hide and that we are unwilling to let people know what we do and why we do it. In personal conversations some have indicated that maybe the people shouldn't know what we do because that is why they continually turn down our pay raise. If that be the case, it is a sad situation, but I think we owe it to the people of Nebraska to allow them to understand at least the political process a little bit about it. But I want to make one last point that I think is a better point than the ones that I had made before, and that is simply this, we have had in this special session a very difficult time determining what we would cut, in fact, we have decided to go to a great extent on across-the-board cuts, and we have now some people who have made it their personal little issue or stand or whatever you would call it to take and make specific cuts that they think will be very popular back home, or very popular for one reason or another. I think if those people have those strong stands, they ought to propose those things, not in the special session when we know that we cannot cut enough from the budget to prevent the kind of tax increase that this Legislature seems to be prepared to suggest will have to happen. We have cut as deeply as we can and if we take \$30,000 here or \$300,000 there, or \$10,000 someplace else, that is not going to avoid that tax cut. It will maybe perhaps offer a legislator or two an opportunity to go back and say, I did make a cut; we still had to raise taxes but I offered a proposal that was successful. If these programs are not good programs....

SENATOR LAMB: One minute, Senator.

SENATOR NEWELL: ....then I think we ought to look at them not only in the special session. I caution this Legislature in this regard, if this proposal goes, there are I am sure many other proposals for specific programs that you or I or someone else do not have any interest in. We can debate that budget as we did earlier this year. We can offer these kinds of cuts and in fact maybe we can get to a significant total. I would urge us not to begin the process of nickeling and diming for political purposes when, in fact, we have done the