

things that have been said and sitting on Appropriations Committee and looking at prioritizing. But just to remind you of a few things that happens when it comes to distance learning when we're looking at access to things in the area of education and the retention of people in smaller communities and throughout the state. We're looking at an engineering program that's being held in western Nebraska to be able to retain the kinds of people that we need when it comes to economic development, and companies, that's being offered to the UNL campus. We look at health care and allied health from the Med Center that's being offered, the West Nebraska School of Nursing that is...depends upon distance learning. We look at the area of social services, where Chadron is distance learning, down to Scottsbluff where the community college in western Nebraska is having criminal justice classes that they're beaming up to Chadron. It's a mix that says it's a part of our infrastructure as well as roads, airline service, distance learning and telecommunication is a part of that. And I think when we are prioritizing and we look at the total picture, the whole picture we have to see where technology in the future fits in. This is one that without, I think, would really isolate many, many people and you would continue to see those migration to heavier populated areas, and the smaller ones continue to get smaller. And it is needed and we should encourage the federal government to look at it in cooperation with the state in how we can best fund this system.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, Senator Wehrbein, I have to say what J. Paul Getty, who made his fortune from oil, when he made his first three strikes, well, well, well. I'm glad to see that Senator Wehrbein can be a wild-eyed, big-spending liberal when the cause is just and there is an appropriate situation. What this does demonstrate is that it's difficult for anybody to either be labeled or to assume a rock-ribbed, lock-step approach which brands him or her indelibly as a so-called liberal or conservative. What I hope the Legislature can do, based on what it's starting to do this morning, is look at the issues that do come before us. And regardless of what position a particular party has taken at the national level, or even the state level in certain instances, we will try to look at the merits or demerits of the particular issue that is before us and vote on it, on that basis. I don't think anything else needs to be said about ETV and public radio,