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PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Senator Wickersham, your light is next.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Thank you, Madam President, I'll try to be brief. I take it that, Senator Coordsen, you were not listening to public radio on your way in this morning, you would have found out that there's currently a pledge drive underway and that you would have this opportunity to show your personal support for public radio, if you chose to do that. I don't happen to have the telephone number right on my lips, Senator Coordsen, but we could probably provide you with that. I'm encouraged by the debate that we're having on this resolution this morning because I think it shows that there is a broad-based recognition in this body of the benefits that public television and public radio have brought to the citizens of the State of Nebraska. When you come from the more distant reaches of the state, as I do, those benefits are even more significant, I think, than if you're in the more densely populated areas of the state. If you come from a portion of the state when your only opportunity for a daily comprehensive newspaper is the Omaha World-Herald, you certainly appreciate that being balanced out with the information that you can obtain from public radio or public television, which gives you a broader scope and basis for understanding, not only state, but world events, let alone the other purely entertainment or informational programs that these valuable networks may offer, including, including on an increasing basis the proceedings of this legislative body in communities across the state. So, hopefully, our actions will be, if not understood, at least perceived to be less of the disorderly and rambunctious process that is sometimes portrayed in the news media. I think it is always much better if people can see for themselves and evaluate for themselves what we have done, rather than having that presented through a filter. And I think that is certainly one of the programs that I think will be long-term beneficial, not only to the State of Nebraska, but to this body, together with the educational programs that others have already referenced. And I would certainly urge your support of this resolution, regardless of what effect it may have on the federal budget, because the federal government, like the state government, has to set priorities. And for my part I think public radio and public television should always be a priority for the State of Nebraska.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Senator Pirsch.