

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President and members of the body. I was going to just sit here and kind of take a neutral position on this resolution, but as I hear more and more speak, and particularly Senator Withem, Senator Coordsen, I guess I have to stand up and give my two cents on how I'm going to vote on this issue. We do have a first class operation at Nebraska Television, and indeed it's wonderful to see the citizens of Nebraska support that. But it still is a subsidized public taxpayer dollars supported, as is the national. And it seems to me that we will continue to support, in Nebraska, those things that are supportive of our education, our long distance learning, and those things can still exist without necessarily asking Congress to continue the National Public Broadcasting organizations. And I think we need to look at, and I don't think this body is there yet but Congress is, how we can look at traditional, locked-in programs at the federal and the state level differently, and how we can do things differently, do them better, do them more cost-efficiently and more effectively also. I am going to support the balanced budget amendment resolution that is coming up. I am going to support cuts and nonincreases in spending on this body, on this floor. And while this is simply a resolution, doesn't carry any weight, I cannot be hypocritical and vote for this when I am going to ask my congressman to stop spending at the national level and I am hoping to continue that policy in this...on this floor.

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

SENATOR FISHER: Madam President, members, I rise in support of this resolution. I want to compliment Senator Wehrbein for bringing it to us. I think it's important. I think the State of Nebraska needs to have a broadened base for us to view and keep up-to-date. I know that the various television coverage, various public radio that we do have coverage in Nebraska is very important. They do center and focus on Nebraska issues along with the national issues. And I think that certainly we can be conservative, we can watch our dollars and sometimes we can take away too much, because I think this benefits all in Nebraska and all throughout the United States. So I will support this resolution and hope everybody gives it favorable consideration. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator. Senator Jensen.