

Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, without any reference to any particular religion, it's possible to discuss the issue of morality. Morality, based on how I view it, consists in a person determining what is right and what is wrong, being faced with choices, then deliberately and consciously making a choice in conformity with what he or she thinks to be right. We cease to behave as free moral beings when we allow somebody else to coerce our judgment and make a decision for us. Legislators would make a mistake to follow Senator Kristensen's philosophy as articulated on this particular issue. We know that Congress can whipsaw the states, they have always done it, they always will. We have a responsibility to look at the issues that come before us and make a decision on each issue as it comes before us. If we are convinced that these services are of value to the people of Nebraska, we are abdicating our responsibility to say we will vote against telling Congress to let these services continue for fear of political ramifications, and that's what people fear. They fear how they will appear in editorials in these little newspapers around the state, maybe they're worried about what the World-Herald will say if they take a position today which seems inconsistent with one they'll take tomorrow. I will use that as an argument to say, you went such and such a way on this issue, now we come to a very similar one and you go the opposite way. That has always been a part of political and every other kind of debate, and it will continue to be. But somebody once said a slavish consistency is the hobgoblin of little minds, little minds. We want strong, active, independent minds in this Legislature. And sometimes it behooves a Legislature to provide leadership which is not occurring at the federal level. How in the world are we going to sit here and whine and gripe and complain about how unfair Congress is in cutting this and cutting that and putting us in such and such a position, yet at the same time when we have the opportunity to assert some leadership we fail to do so because we say Congress has a whip over us? I hope we will pass this resolution, and I hope that it will do the exact things Senator Kristensen mentioned, that congresspersons will look at this resolution and say there is support for this type of service, it does benefit people and pockets of this country, not just in outstate Nebraska, all over this country there are portions where, without public television, public radio, those people would be in a veritable wasteland, they would have no real access to the outside world.