

you draw the limits of critical spending, the State of Nebraska tells you we think that public education, public broadcasting and public radio fits within the definition of critical spending. That, I think, is a hard, tough, sincere and direct message, and I think it's one that's well justified in this state on exactly the policy rationale that Senator Matzke gave us. That's why I'll support the Senator Wehrbein amendment, and that's why I think it has significance. I think it's saying no matter what you do at the federal level, we regard this as critical spending, do it, because it's a clear reflection of the needs and priorities of this state. That I'm prepared to go on record in support, and that's what I intend to do when I cast a vote for LR 48.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Landis. The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Bernard-Stevens, Kristensen and Witek.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President, members of the Legislature, to echo Senator Landis' comments, I was very taken by what Senator Matzke said. I didn't realize things were as, to use the term that Senator Brashear didn't want in a different context, I didn't realize things were as critical in the western part of the state as they really are. And as he spoke, the picture that came to my mind was that of a space walk where you have this huge capsule, then one individual is to leave the capsule and go out and do something or other, but there is a cord, a lifeline or an umbilical cord, if you will, which attaches to that person to make sure he does not drift too far from the ship. So this may be like the lifeline or the umbilical cord which attaches that part of the state to the more densely populated area of the state. And I think it's very appropriate that we pass this resolution and go on record with a very strong statement. I have said before what I'm about to say now. You all have heard that Teddy Roosevelt said, walk softly but carry a big stick. There is another thing that he said which people have not quoted. He was talking to his children and he said, never strike unless you must, but if you must strike, never strike softly. So this resolution's purpose is to avoid striking softly. We are declaring, as Senator Landis indicated, that choices are going to have to be made. And as for us in this one-house session of the Legislature, or one-house Chamber, this one-house Legislature, we favor maintaining public television and public radio. And I hope that the votes will be there. Those who will vote against this