

do in the end as well. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Witek, your light is next.

SENATOR WITEK: Madam Chairman, members of the Legislature, it's sadly humorous to me that this body would vote down an amendment that calls for being fiscal...a fiscally reasonable and responsible. Sad but true in a lot of our legislatures today, that's probably something that, I guess, the majority doesn't want to be from the looks of that last amendment. I know everybody is talking about what we get out of public television. I think that argument is going to be moot in a very short period of time because of fiber optics and a tremendous network that we'll have major access to from our homes, from our businesses, from our work. In a very short period of time we'll have access to information from all over the world and at a very reasonable price at that. So the whole idea of having a public telecommunications system or public radio is quickly coming to an end, it's an era that's coming to an end. And I hope that the majority of people in this Legislature will realize that in a very short period of time we will not need to have access to this because we will already have access at your fingertips from your home, from your schools, from your libraries, from every place that you could possibly want it. So that whole idea of need for this entity is a moot point to me. But the idea of money is something that I think you should take seriously. The...in our manual for the Legislators Guide to Nebraska State Agency, the cost to this state is \$6,287,837 for NET...NETV and public radio. That comes out of our General Fund, \$6 million, a little over \$6 million comes out of our General Fund, and 241,000 comes from a Cash Fund. So if you're looking for cuts in this year's budget, this is something you should consider simply because the need is just about disappearing because of access to educational programs, and cultural programs, and everything else that you can get on cable TV, and we are looking, as a country, to try to get a handle on expenses. And I, for one, am not going to send a resolution to Congress telling them not to cut this budget because there isn't anyone on this floor who's made any sense to me, other than all of the things that you get access from these areas right now. You can access those same things from many other areas right now, and that's something that hopefully you'll become more aware of, if you're not already aware of it, and at least, I hope, make an effort to become more aware of the changes technologically that