

we're making here in Nebraska. So, I really hope that you'll consider voting against this resolution because, first of all, we don't need to be telling Congress to spend more money, they do that very well on their own. And I think here in the State of Nebraska if you're going to be looking at our budget this year and deciding what we need, there are other areas of need that have no other places they can look other than to the General Fund for monies or for services. They cannot...they don't have any other access, like cable TV or any other area that they can look to for the same services. So, as Senator Kristensen said, I hope you won't look at this narrowly as one issue, I hope you will look at it overall as a budget issue, as an issue of need that simply is not there or is decreasing very rapidly at this time. And I also would hope that you'll take some opportunities to check out our communications here in the Capitol, our computer offices, talk to some of the people in telecommunications industries in our state and find out, have your eyes open wide as to really what's out there instead of just having some individual tell you that the only place that we can get this is on public television or public radio because that's simply not true anymore. The time is right to start cutting, and this is a good place to start cutting. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Witek. Senator Schimek, your light is next, followed by Senators Chambers and Robinson.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Madam President, members of the body, Senator Janssen said electricity just came to Nickerson about five years ago. (Laughter.) He doesn't know when they're going to get cable, so he's not buying Senator Witek's argument, I guess. I don't think the need for public television, public radio are coming to an end. And, frankly, I find it amusing in a way that some of the people that are making this argument are the very ones who would probably get up and be extremely upset about all the violence on TV, as I am, all the sex on TV, as I am. I mean some of the programming I think leaves less than...leaves a lot to be desired. Public television, I do believe, and public radio are a critical component of the discourse in our democracy. I think that it's critical to the discussion of the issues. I think it brings a lot of different viewpoints. I don't know how many of you get a chance to watch the nightly...or to listen to the nightly news on public radio every night, but you get a lot of different arguments and a lot of different thought-provoking discussions. I think that it provides a unique role. I don't think that all of these