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LB 171

SENATOR JANSSEN: All right. Thank you very much. That's the only question I had.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Janssen. Senator Beutler, on the committee amendments to LB 171.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Wickersham, if I could allow you to finish your explanation on my time, I would...I would be interested, starting...starting at the beginning again.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Well, okay.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wickersham.

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: The technology was developing. There was a problem with how the technology was going to be implemented because it was going to be expensive. It was going to be expensive technology for the broadcasters. It was going to be expensive technology for the persons who were going to receive the benefits, that is homeowners and others who wanted to watch digital television, this new...and it is marvelous. It is a wonderful enhancement in terms of not only the quality of the picture but the quality of the sound. It is wonderful technology. You'll like it. You will like it. It's impossible not to like it. It's good. But there was a problem. As I said, it was expensive. It was expensive for the broadcasters; it's expensive for the people who are going to use it. The broadcasters had old spectrum that they're using now for analog signals. It was practical to shift to a new band of spectrum for digital signals because they were not only going to broadcast sound and sight over the new digital band width, but they're going to broadcast other services into your home and eventually the technology I think will be very, very surprising and useful to you. Your television can become, at that point, a fully interactive device. It will be a digital device. It will be interactive. You will be able to do wonderful things with your television. But you needed to have the right kind of spectrum, you needed to have the right kind of equipment and technology to do that, and it was all expensive. A trade-off was made. The old analog spectrum is going to be given up and auctioned off. The federal government will get money for it. The broadcasters get new spectrum and they get a mandate from