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LB 171, 1217

all the time in this country is that court decisions are made that essentially have the effect, if companies and industries want to avoid liability, of increasing the industry standard in some way or another, usually at some cost. And so I would like to hear more. I mean I assume we're not going to buy the principle, generally speaking, that any time the government causes a change in the industry we're going to give an exemption. So the only question should be is whether this is so large and different in scale that we're going to make an exception and the long-term benefits of the industry from changing over don't compensate for the short-term detriment to the industry, and on both of those scores I feel like I've yet to be convinced that this is a good thing to do. I don't know with certainty the ownership of all ten of those stations, but I don't think a single one of them is owned by Nebraskans. I think they're all owned by outstate conglomerates of one type or another, and I would be interested in that information and confirmation of that information too, because I don't think this has anything to do with mom and pop operations. This has to do with large conglomerates who are going to benefit hugely from the long-term change to the other digital band, which can do a variety of other functions and compete better against cable and against other industries that are...that are competing in these areas. So at least at this point in time, I'm certainly not convinced that this is a good or necessary thing to do. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Bohlke, you're recognized to speak on committee amendments.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Thank you, Mr. President and members. Senator Kristensen, I started to have a little dialogue with you and I've heard some conversation on the floor that I think it would be helpful for people to understand. Last year, the Appropriations Committee appropriated a large sum of money, as I understand it was over three years, but for public television in order for them to make this conversion. Is that true?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: That's right. It was in LB 1217.

SENATOR BOHLKE: Forty-eight million?