

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 8, 2000

LB 171

with that, Senator Vrtiska, but there's no provision in this bill for the individuals who may have to purchase a two thousand dollar television or even a couple hundred dollars for a conversion box that you can buy so that your analog television could receive a digital signal. There's no sales tax exemption for you, as an individual, and, in fact, if that was included in the bill you all would come up gasping for air if you saw the fiscal note. So that's the reason individuals aren't in here, it's way too expensive. But individuals have the same problem as the TV industry.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Time. Thank you, Senator Wickersham. Further debate on the advancement of LB 171, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Kristensen a question.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Kristensen, would you yield?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Kristensen, maybe you already addressed this, but if this bill does not grant what you're trying...if the bill does not pass, in other words, do you know of any broadcaster who would benefit from this in Nebraska who would go out of business as a result of this bill not passing?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: I think it would be highly speculative to say that this is life or death for sure on anybody.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. That was a very direct answer and I suspected what the answer would be. I'm not going to be able to support this bill. This is slightly off the subject, but I have a contractual relationship with a company, as I told you, US West and I just got through taking care of the part of my contract to US West and my service, my basic service is twenty-something dollars, and my bill is over forty dollars by the time all those fees are added, some of which I agreed to so that we could provide service to people in other parts of the state and make it affordable. I even offered an amendment to do that. So I'm paying through the nose for some things that I was willing to pay money in order to subsidize others, so I'm not