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LB 171

minutes to bring us up-to-date? We'll give you two minutes.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. To bring you up quickly where this bill is, the bill was substantially amended yesterday by the Revenue Committee. This is a bill that deals with the federal mandate that would require the broadcasters of this state to switch over to digital signals, which is a completely different process than what they do right now. The Revenue Committee took a bill that I had as an exemption, and said we're going to make it different, we're going to make it only to TV broadcasts; we are going to make it a refund process where they put in and pay the tax, they get to apply for a refund. It's going to be limited to roughly three and a half years of purchases, and there is a sunset at the end of it, and that you have to convince the Department of Revenue that you get the refund. Opposition comes from a couple members of the Revenue Committee and some others who are interested in that this is bad precedent. I believe this to be good policy and that's the position we're in right at the moment.

**SENATOR CROSBY:** Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Discussion on the advancement of LB 171? Senator Wickersham.

**SENATOR WICKERSHAM:** Thank you, Madam President. Again, to bring the body up-to-date, as you recall, my personal position was support, of course, of the committee amendments, but then opposition to the bill. And again, because we're starting the debate today, I wanted to again reiterate the reasons why I was opposed to the bill, even after the adoption of the committee amendments. Senator Kristensen indicates that the bill is to ease the pain of a federal mandate for, in this particular instance, TV broadcasters. The...there are several difficulties with that position, notwithstanding that 13 other states have agreed to ameliorate the pain that the TV broadcasters may be feeling by reason of the federal mandate. I made the point yesterday, I would reiterate the point today that there are many, many federal mandates that affect all kinds of businesses in the state of Nebraska. I asserted yesterday, in response to a question by Senator Beutler, that I knew of no other instance in which we had a program that was designed to ameliorate the difficulties that an industry might have in this way with