

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

March 9, 2000

LB 171

draw the line? These are not radio stations that in fact can exist given the competition, given the new technology they have to have, or in fact they do go out of business. I think these...this particular industry deserves the right to compete, like the farmers deserve the right to compete, like the processors, ConAgra and others, deserve the right to compete. And I don't think there's any difference. Make all the arguments you will, we have to come up with the money publicly to support our own institutions, telecommunications and otherwise. Now that \$59 million, I would be the first to admit, does include some money for transponders, but I can't tell exactly how much it is, but what's the difference? The transponders deal with the new technology that is being mandated for everybody in this business, all over the country and in Nebraska. Now if we didn't spend this kind of money, 60 million bucks, keeping our own institutions of communications going in the state, then I would say okay, everybody is going to compete, let our own public institution communications people try to find \$60 million. How will they do that? By advertising? Well, they can't, I don't think, go after the kinds of people who would donate and contribute time that would help offset that cost. I think this is something we have to do at this point in time. Like all exemptions, some day maybe you'll agree or disagree, all exemptions should be revisited. Maybe we should have put a sunset on the exemptions that started during the days of "Nobby" Tiemann, when we had all that money left over from sales and income tax, and a group of legislators, here on the floor, decided they would take...they'd just spend it. Rather than giving it back to people, they thought they'd just spend it and give exemptions for feed, seed, grain, or whatever else it is, and also give the people in the city an exemption for their automobile inventories, et cetera. Well, if we're worried about exemptions, now where were you when these first started, and where are you, if you don't want to revisit all exemptions and make sure whatever exemptions we have are fair? So let's not just bad rap this particular exemption and think that everything we did in the past was perfectly all right and fair. You know that's not true. I hope this bit of help for this Nebraska industry is successful. I hope we vote for LB 171.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Don Pederson.