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in whether you have an option. Now I'm going to...I'd like to ask Senator Kristensen a question, please.

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Kristensen, will you yield?

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Kristensen,...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...these TV stations, do they have the option, when this is so called mandatory or whatever, can they still broadcast from their station with the present equipment, so Jim Cudaback, with his old TV set, that he can't afford to buy a new one, can I still receive this if I wish to?

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Well, there is a specific date, which is 2006, when they will have to have equipment in place to broadcast digitally. They must do that. Now there is going to be a period of time in there where they're going to broadcast in both analogue and digital, so that I don't know if your TV accepts cable either, but my guess...

SENATOR CUDABACK: I can't afford cable.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: (Laugh) Okay. You will have a longer period of time, my guess is that your TV will wear out and you will be buying a new TV, in the normal course of your viewing, prior to the time that the switch occurs. That's not true for the broadcasters, because they're going to have...they can't gamble that that date is going to change; they must change.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I guess my question, I didn't...I think I didn't phrase my question quite right. Are they going to be told, can they still put the signal out with their current equipment, even after this comes in, or are going to be...

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: No, they can't.

SENATOR CUDABACK: ...somebody come in, like they did in prohibition days, and smash their (inaudible), says, you're not going to operate the way you're currently operating?