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Transcriber's Office

March 28, 2000 LB 1234

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Chambers, to open on your amendment.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And, Mr. President, this is a serious amendment. In the same way the other day that I opposed putting a sunset on the Commission for the Blind, I am opposed to hanging a sword of Damocles over the heads of all of these small station operators. Although Senator Bromm's amendment as it exists now would give them a short period of grace, these owners or operators would still be in considerable stress, under considerable dis...considerable stress and in distress. In effect, what the bill would be telling them is that you have until January 1st of the year 2002 to wind up your business affairs; the Legislature is going to allow you to remain in business until January 1st of the year 2002; after that it's curtains. I do not believe that, if a person is operating one of these small business...one of these small stations, he or she is somehow going to come up with the wherewithal to add an additional tank. If my amendment is adopted nothing happens with reference to these small stations at all. The only way something can happen to them is if the Legislature makes a deliberate decision to wipe them out. Doing the amendment in the way that Senator Bromm has done it would not require anything of the Legislature, and these stations are out of business. It is more difficult to take something out of the law than to put something in. If our concern, and I believe our concern is, but if our concern is genuinely for these small operators, let us just say that the bill is not designed to include them. If, at a future date, some compelling reason can be shown to draw them into this net and exterminate them, let the Legislature do that by way of a bill aimed to achieve that purpose. Without my amendment these people are caught up in a bill that has many political ramifications; the spillover will harm these small operators. I don't believe it is merciful, certainly it is not fair to give these people this short extension to their business life. I hope you will adopt this amendment. If you take Senator Bromm's amendment these stations are not going to be affected until January 1st of the year 2002, but my concern is that they are compelled to operate under this cloud, live with the uncertainty, a greater uncertainty than confronts any other business. No business is guaranteed success, so they're going to have those stresses anyway. But