

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

January 13, 2005

Since most of the people in rural areas and even in the urban areas, in town, are going to the smaller satellite service, they're not picking up the Legislature's broadcasts that they used to. My understanding is the technology is there, but nobody has bothered to work it into this other satellite system. Years ago, when we had the larger satellites, we could pick up the state of Nebraska's Unicameral workings, and at the present time there are very few large antennas left anymore. We've all went to the smaller dish in the rural areas, and even in the cities. So at the present time, unless you're on some type of cable system or picking it up off of your Internet computer, you don't get to view what's going on down here in the Chamber. It's refreshing, too, when Senator Bourne, as Chairman of the Judiciary Committee, now mentioned that he was going to take his committee on the road for hearings through the next summer, it's very refreshing to hear someone do that. I think he's very positive in trying to do something like this. We have to do work to keep the state pulled together because, as you may, as Senator Chambers says, it's going to always be the...where the population is, but you want to remember that if you do not take care of the other parts of the state you will lose that trade territory. You've already lost all of the medical territory, or the bigger part of it, in the western end of the state. Denver and Rapid City has taken it over, and Denver, for the most part, has, because at the present time some of our health facilities are partnering up with health facilities out at Fort Collins and the Denver area to build more facilities in Colorado. Another thing you want to remember, that in a few years from now there could be a bigger population growth in the western end of the state than there is in the eastern end. That front range there is growing at an enormous rate, and they're coming down Interstate 25 at a very vast clip. It won't be too many years that probably Cheyenne and Denver will be all one large metropolitan area. So I support what Senator Smith is trying to do. I think it's something that needs to be done, and I appreciate having him bring it before the Legislature. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Louden. Senator Kremer, on the Smith amendment.