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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Well, I'm not going to be willing to hold the public power suppliers to a standard that would allow the other side to get a hundred miles ahead of them by the time the moratorium is over.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Some would argue they're already ahead, but I understand you're not going to be willing. I got that feeling at about 10:30.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So if they're that far ahead, what difference does it make if public power comes into it? If it's something that they cannot do, they will not be able to do it. It's as simple as that.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: Can I actually give you a thoughtful answer?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: I'd appreciate it.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: The difference it makes, Senator Chambers, I understand on the surface what you're saying, but the difference it makes is if I am a private provider, investor-owned with a responsibility to shareholders, I am going to be concerned about whether the state of Nebraska is going to build a publicly owned, state-of-the-art telecommunications capacity to compete with me after it has authorized me to go out and sink, plan,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: ...buy and pay for plant,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time.

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: ...employ people, create jobs and do the rest. I want to know now, before I upgrade my facilities or take any more investment risk.

SENATOR CUDABACK: I'm sorry, but time is up. Senator Chambers, you may...

SPEAKER BRASHEAR: I want to know whether public power is going to compete with me, or whether it's going to stay out of it.