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LB 645

and my philosophy is such that I do not hold some kind of a bias against the public sector provision of essential services. And today, Internet services, electricity, television--TV, telephone, those are all basic services, and the public sector, I think, has a fair and reasonable role to play in that, and I'm not prepared to curtail that at the current time. I'm voting no on LB 645.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Landis. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, Senator Beutler has a couple of amendments which are designed to ameliorate some of the harm done by this bill in its present form. I do appreciate the comments that Senator Landis made, and I don't know that it is necessary for anybody to go into highly technical terms or deeply technical discussion, because this bill is not about that. If a person has no understanding whatsoever of the types of services that are being covered by this bill, such person nevertheless could justifiably join in the discussion, and take the approach similar to what Senator Landis did, that public entities should not be frozen out entirely and absolutely from this activity. I'm not opposed to the study. I think the study could proceed just as well without the ban on these public entities. This will give the gougers, the graspers, the would-be monopolists a clear field. If there's an area that they choose not to serve, that area will not be served, because they're the only game in town. How many of you would like to have a similar set of circumstances, whatever you're doing? I saw in the most recent legislative publication where Senator Fischer was tagging the ear of a calf. Now if she were the only person raising cattle in Nebraska, there are a lot of things she does now that she wouldn't have to do. She wouldn't have to brand an animal, she wouldn't have to build fences, or do anything else, because she is the only one doing that work, engaged in that type of enterprise. But she is not the only one. General Motors is not the only one selling automobiles. Ethanol is not the only fuel additive. Amoco is not the only company that can be identified as being associated with big oil. But when it comes to the telecommunications industry in Nebraska, the only entities which may be able to