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

May 31, 2005 LB 645

we're over 40 miles from the central. Now where we are we don't get DSL; there's no such thing as DSL. In fact, on our phone system we don't even get caller ID, because we're too far from central. So consequently, if you want Internet service, why, we have to go satellite, and that runs about \$70 a month, plus the cost of the equipment, to put it in. When we come down here to Lincoln, why, we can get DSL, put it on our one phone line, so we don't have to have two lines, and goes from there, and the cost is, I don't know, \$16, \$17, whatever the price of it is. But nonetheless, when we first started out there with Internet service, we had, had a dial-up out of Alliance. The dial-up service that was done in Alliance was -- it wasn't a public power district, but it was a Panhandle electric co-op that put it in. It was an electric cooperative that put it in. In order to get the dial-up, we had to put our own phone lines in. The phone company at that time, whether they were still part of the Bell system or the Qwest system, but they were plumb paranoid when it come to putting underground lines in. They would cost about 4,000 bucks to probably put in a quarter of a mile of line, but they would give me all the wire I wanted if I'd put the line in myself. So we dug the line in ourselves, hired a trencher and put the line in ourselves, and they gave us an eight-wire line. So I have an eight-wire line going into the ranch. I can have all kinds of service into the ranch, if I could get it past the box that's sitting over there, 40 miles from Alliance. This is the way it works out, out in the hinterland, as you want to call it, because they do not put service out there if there aren't enough people. So consequently, this is where public power districts, where some of them come along to service those types of areas that no one else wants to. When we got ready to put in a satellite Internet service, I looked around and ended up with public power service in eastern Nebraska, is the one that gave. us...is who we buy our Internet service through. they're doing it legally or illegally, I don't know, but they're the only game in town when it come to putting it out there in our area. Sure, after they start getting some people out there, then there are other ones that are wanting to come out there and are willing to take that service over. But to be on the cutting edge and bring the power and the services to us to start with, it wasn't your IOUs or your investor-owned utilities. It was your public service utilities that usually