

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

June 1, 2005

LB 645

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I want to again thank Senator Brashear for accepting my concerns and incorporating them in this amendment. I was a "not voting" on General File. If this amendment is adopted, I will be voting for the bill. I want to talk about a couple of issues here though that may affect what we're doing in this state. Senator John McCain is cosponsoring legislation that would allow municipalities to provide broadband over power lines, and I think that legislation could be considered this year. I don't know how that would affect this state law, if federal regulations would take precedent over a bill that we would pass. I don't know if any accommodations for LB 645 would be accepted in that. But he is sponsoring that legislation. I think it's very positive or possible that the federal legislation could end...could speak on this issue this year. Senator Janssen, I'm going to address this to you, on when it comes to Nebraska's state and local taxes, Qwest paid \$13 million in taxes last year. OPPD paid over \$18 million. NPPD and Lincoln Electric each paid over \$6 million. In income taxes, Qwest had a negative income tax liability of \$371,000, and the effective tax rate for Qwest was lower than the effective tax rate for NPPD. The argument that we don't want public competing with privates because publics don't pay taxes is very bogus. That is not the case in this state. And when OPPD and NPPD are going to build new generation facilities, they don't seek LB 775 credits because it doesn't work. So I think that's something we need to point out. I thank you for your time on this. I thank Senator Brashear again for he...for having accommodated my concerns, and I will be voting for the amendment, and I will be voting for the bill on Select File. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. On with discussion of FA320. Senator Chambers, there are no lights on. You're recognized to close.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this amendment that I'm offering would strike Section 10 which contains that appropriation language. I would like to ask Senator Brashear a question.