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LB 1044

horror stories where both fire departments and sheriffs' offices are going to the same rescue call and they cannot communicate with each other over their radios to coordinate how they are going to deal with the emergency. It's really an untenable situation and they are going to go together and they are going to buy the state of the art communication equipment so that we will have one system for communication and this bill is needed to help with the funding of that. I was able to see a demonstration, a few years ago, of the enhanced 911 and some people think this is just the traditional 911, you punch in the numbers on the telephone, you call up, there is somebody on the other end of the line who kind of looks up your address, fumbles around and calls the appropriate response agencies and like in Sarpy County if somebody calls and says there is a fire at 910 Elm Street and hangs up the phone, they wouldn't know whether that was in Gretna, Papillion, LaVista, Bellevue, where it might be. The enhanced 911 system uses state of the art electronics so when the person calls and the 911 system picks up, there doesn't even have to be a voice on the other end of the line, they will know, the computers will know what that address is and they will know where it is located and they will be able to dispatch emergency personnel immediately. The enhanced 911 system is one that has...has saved many, many lives from individuals. If a young child doesn't know how to give directions to their home, they don't have to. Punch 911 and say we need help and they come out. This is one of those quality of life things where what is available to people in the larger cities, like Omaha and Lincoln, isn't necessarily available to those people in the rural areas and they need a mechanism to get that and they are expensive enough that the property tax base just will not support that, so the added tie-in to the telephone surcharge that was passed a few years ago...

PRESIDENT ROBAK: One minute.

SPEAKER WITHEM: ...by a bill that Senator Baack and I cosponsored, Senator Baack was the chief sponsor of it, will allow them the state of the art ability to have response to their emergencies and anybody any place in the state, regardless of whether they live in an urban area or a rural area needs this, so I guess I don't care if Lincoln is in or out, I don't care if Omaha is in or out, but certainly the other 91 counties in the state do need this and I plan on giving as much support to this bill as I'm able to give.

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