

balance of my time to confirm that with Senator Haberman.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I will accept the amendment.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Thank you. Further discussion on the amendment? Senator Warner is recognizes.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, I rise to talk on the amendment only because I regret not having pushed the button sooner, before the last vote. It really makes no difference if you put knowingly or unknowingly or make no change, I don't believe. As I understand the thrust of the law, it's not to govern what the newspaper charges, it is the authorization of what the government can pay. I think you're getting into a whole new scope if you go under the area that you are going to regulate by statute, and it is a constitutional issue as to what, and the freedom of the press, as to what you can or cannot force a newspaper to do. I wouldn't try to follow that argument up, but I have a feeling that you're getting to an area beyond which the Legislature can do. But, irregardless of that, the limitation is not on the paper, the authorization, the limitation is on what government, maximum amount they can pay. Some newspapers will pay...charge less than that rate, and I believe do. But in no case is government authorized to pay more. That is the issue that we're dealing with, not what a newspaper can charge on anything, but what local government is authorized and mandated to pay up to, and I think you're mixing something in with this whole amendment, whether this is added or not, that you...that we cannot do. Thank you.

SENATOR L. JOHNSON: Thank you, Senator Warner. The Chair recognizes Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. President, members, I, too, have some concern about the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States with reference to this amendment, a freedom of speech question. However, specifically with reference to Senator Landis's amendment to add the word "knowingly", I am in full sympathy with it. As I said before, I believe that it makes a very questionable amendment a far better amendment, at this point. I would urge the body to support the amendment. Thank you.