

Senator Ashford was discussing with you...

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Ashford...

SENATOR SMITH: ...as a consideration?

SENATOR HABERMAN: Senator Ashford didn't discuss that with me. No, I don't know what he was talking about either.

SENATOR SMITH: I wish he was around. Okay.

PRESIDENT: He's coming in the door, if you'd like to wait just a moment.

SENATOR SMITH: Senator Ashford, you're needed again. You should have stayed there. (Laugh.) Brad, what was it, I got in on the tail end of this. You were discussing, I thought, something about the fact that maybe what we should do is require that legal notices be published at cost. Was that what your recommendation was?

SENATOR ASHFORD: What I was saying is that legal notices be published at the legal rate. But, if they are not, if there is an amount charged over and above that, that the indi...that the newspaper would be liable to return that amount, plus an additional maybe twice that amount as a penalty or civil penalty for publishing at above the legal rate. My point was that oftentimes these things get published and are billed and the bill is paid, possibly, without anybody looking at it...

SENATOR SMITH: Um-huh.

SENATOR ASHFORD: ...to see whether it is over the legal rate, or under the legal rate, or whatever. So, that was my...

SENATOR SMITH: Well, one of the things that I've been thinking about here is I've been receiving a lot of letters from small newspapers in the state, Rex, and they are saying that they hope we will support this effort for the increase for the rates because of the increased costs that they've been accruing over the years. But what my concern is, what would happen if, many of our small newspapers in some of the little towns probably do depend upon the legal notice publication by different agencies and groups for their livelihood, to a large degree, how will this impact on them, I wonder, with your amendment, Rex?