

newsprint. I think the final force of law should be in the election of duly chosen representatives who do their best in a deliberative and open process to write what should be the rule of law, and that that rule of law should carry sanctions, if it means anything. And when it chooses not to have sanctions, it is meaningless and is nothing more than a resolution. If that is the case, then we should perhaps take this statute off the books. If it is to have the force of law, it needs to have teeth. And I, for one, in perhaps contradistinction to Senator Warner's perception here, think that, if we are going to have this rule, it ought to have some power, it ought to have some sanctions, it ought to have an effect. And it is possible we may not win the argument, but there is a deeper question here, and that is not who gets to write the most ink, but which set of ink constitutes law and which set of ink constitutes editorializing and news stores. To my knowledge, this is the body that is still writing law, and the Omaha World-Herald is still writing news and editorials. I hope we haven't confused the two.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Smith is next, followed by Senator Moore. But may I introduce a guest, please, first, of Senator Beck. She has as her guest today Ty Grothe, who...Mr. Grothe is seated under the south balcony. Would you please rise and be welcome, please. Thank you. Senator Smith, please.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Members of the body, I think that we've kind of gotten off the total subject of what the intent of LB 298 is. It did come out of the committee after consideration, and we do feel that it merits a 15 cent increase for the lines that we're talking about. But I think what we've come to now here is a choice, a choice that we have to make. Are we going to look for a remedy to what we consider to be the issues that we're discussing right now, today, and try to resolve that and add it to this bill, or will we wait and have that be looked at as a part of the...look at the whole issue, I guess to me surrounds the requirement that we do have presently in the state for the multitude of public notices. And some of them, I think, are very outdated. Maybe it's time for us to look at this whole thing surrounding why we require so much as far as public notice is concerned and look at the fact that... My understanding is the reason, in some point in time back, when the Legislature, in its wisdom, decided to eliminate the requirement for Lincoln and Omaha to publish the same kinds