

PRESIDENT: Senator Abboud, please, then Senator Wesely.

SENATOR ABOUDD: Mr. President, colleagues, just a short statement. I think that some of the things that have been discussed here in regard to what is, in fact, the legal rate and what is, in fact, acceptable or an amount that local political subdivisions can pay have been confused. I don't think that in any way it's...the present statute, as it currently is, provides for penalties against papers that choose not to charge the rate that is stated in the statute. I think you really have some very real problems dealing with the first amendment when you start placing amounts that are or can be restricted. In Douglas County we really don't have too much of a problem getting legal publications out. We have the Daily Record, the Midlands Business Journal, as well as a number of small town papers in Douglas County that charge a rate that is much, much less than the larger metropolitan edition of the World-Herald. I don't really ever see this as a problem. Maybe Senator Haberman sees this as a problem out in his area. And if he has some papers out in that area that he feels aren't...or are charging too much, then maybe we can deal with it. But as far as I'm concerned, we have a number of small papers that do a good job of handling the legal notices. It really hasn't been a concern. No constituents have been calling me up or requesting that we make these changes. And I think that the statute is working perfectly well. I urge the body to advance LB 298, and then when we look on it on Select File, maybe my discussion of this area will be more pertinent. But at this time, I think the bill is fine, let's just move it and advance it on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Wesely is next. But, Senator, may I please introduce a guest of...special guests in the north balcony. Senator Wesely has guests up there and they are from the statewide members of the Nebraska Medical Auxiliary along with their legislative person. Would you please stand up and be recognized by your Legislature. Thank you for visiting us today. Senator Wesely, please.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members. Very quickly. I thought Senator Smith made very good points, as did Senator Landis. I think the goal of advancing the bill is appropriate at this time, but I do think some work needs to be done. Question Senator Landis raised about just ignoring the law seems appropriate that we ought to take some time to look