

employees, and I think we just need to preserve these jobs in the declining economy. And so that is the reason I have brought this amendment, to strike the portion on both the newspapers and magazines.

SPEAKER BAACK: We have before us the Hartnett amendment to the committee amendment. Senator Landis, on the Hartnett amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, let me just begin by asking Senator Hartnett a question. Senator Hartnett, we now tax magazines that are published on an interval greater than monthly, and reading your language, they will now become exempt from taxation?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Yes.

SENATOR LANDIS: How much will your amendment cost us in money that we are now collecting?

SENATOR HARTNETT: The Revenue Department was not able to give us these figures, Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Okay. So we don't know how much we are losing.

SENATOR HARTNETT: No.

SENATOR LANDIS: But we do know that we are not going to gain. This is a critical issue in the determination of what kind of Legislature we are going to be. And, frankly, I have been here long enough in the 13 years to know how this body is going to react, and I am sometimes asked if I am disillusioned over time by being in the Legislature. And I say, no, I am not because, generally speaking, my expectations have gone down over time about how much we will be able to stick to our guns in the face of political pressure. And over time I have realistically reevaluated how much political courage we are capable of summoning. And today will be another example, I think, of what that quotient will be. We will not tax newspapers at the end of this debate, and we will do so for a wide variety of very specious reasons. What we will do is we will keep a discriminatory exemption on the books in the face of significant political power. We won't tackle the establishment. We are going to lay down for the establishment today and this amendment is going to go, and it is in this kind of moment when that slope of ever-increasing exemptions grows and grows and grows that