

publishers and we wouldn't want to threaten it, and that is what is at the bottom of this today, and that is why this amendment is going to succeed, and I am going to vote against it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Time. Thank you, Senator Landis. We will now go to Senator Hall.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. Senator Landis, I hope you are wrong because I don't want the amendment to pass. I want the amendment to fail for many of the same reasons you stated. You are also wrong in terms of relationships with editors, at least in my case. But then I don't have a local paper, I have the statewide paper, that I happen to reside in that city. In any case, clearly, this is special treatment that we allow. Our sales tax system, our sales tax code is littered with exemptions, and this is just one of them. That is all it is, it is one of them, and, literally, we do treat newspapers differently than we do any other form of news. If you happen to live in an area where cable TV is available to you, you pay sales tax on CNN. CNN is a news source, probably one of the best news sources out there. They rank right up there with the AP. The issue here, though, is, do you treat one form of news differently than another? We clearly have. The Revenue Committee has said, look, this is a source of revenue that is about time that we collect. It is one exemption that ought to go away. And the arguments are going to be, well, who pays it, really? Well, I pay it. I pay it, and you pay it, and everybody else who subscribes to the paper pays it. Does that mean that the paper is going to all of a sudden go away, that they are not going to be able to subsist? I get now, my paper comes...it used to be, and I used to be a paperboy. It used to be that I would pay the guy when he came to the door, or the woman, whoever it was who was carrying the paper, and now it comes in the mail like every other bill that I get. I don't even know half of the time when it goes up or down. I did happen to notice that it went up, that at least the Sunday edition did go up recently, and it went up quite a bit. It went up more than the sales tax differential would have allowed for. You are billed, in many cases, I know it is done differently in different locales, but I know in the case of the World-Herald, for example, you are billed on a quarterly basis, I think it is now, in most cases or maybe it is bimonthly, but it is done differently than it has been in the past, and those increases are built in. The tax could very easily be built in, but the real issue here is that they don't want to have to pay it. They