

Landis and Senator Hall are making, and so it seems to me that that's the fight in which you have to do battle. The real issue I think is more global, more universal than that is, will a tax on the newspaper industry have a negative impact on the freedom of speech and their ability to express themselves, whether I like it or not, whether others like it or not. And so I hope that as we debate this issue that that is where we elevate ourselves to, because that is really the key issue. And, perhaps, there is a way in which some fair and equitable tax can be assessed on the newspapers that does not, in fact, impinge that freedom of speech constitutional protection that they should enjoy. And that is what I want to listen to as we go on further in this debate. That seems to me to be the key issue. At this point, I haven't decided how I am going to vote on the measure, but I do feel that there are two very good arguments I think, but at this point, it is unclear to me which one is the superior one.

**SPEAKER BAACK:** Thank you, Senator Wesely. We will now go to Senator Crosby.

**SENATOR CROSBY:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker and members. I speak maybe perhaps from a different point of view than anyone else because I worked on a newspaper for most of my life, and I just love the newspaper. It is a wonderful place to work, and so I just have a different attitude. The one thing about the sales tax, I have a couple of questions in a minute, but the one thing about the sales tax on the actual product, the issued newspaper, is that the consumer is going to pay that. I think the two big dailies just recently raised their subscription rate and also their machine rate, when you buy one newspaper at a time. They will have to round that price out somehow or another. You can't put pennies in those machines. So the consumer, you and I, are going to pay it. The other thing, there are still a great number of people who pay the carrier at the door, and there again, in order for the carrier to be able to collect perhaps, if someone wants to pay in cash, then they will have some kind of rounded out figure again and that will make the price go up automatically. So I just don't...I can't accept the premise that taxing newspapers is going to settle and solve our tax problems today. This just doesn't wash with me and I understood everything that Senator Landis was saying, and I know he is frustrated, just as all of us are, trying to solve the tax problems. I don't know that this sales tax idea would put our newspaper out of business, but the smaller ones can certainly