

end of the speech, it did fall out, we have to look at newspapers differently, Senator Crosby said. We have to look at newspapers differently, why? Why? Is it because we feel fondly about them? Is it the free flow of information that is also in books, in educational software, in television? No, there is nothing special about newspapers that says we must look at them differently across a panoply of ideas out there except for the fact that they are politically powerful. That is why we wind up looking at them differently. Senator Horgan reminded me that mine is the Garden District. It is true, although I have a tendency to think of it as the Garden Level District, and not...since it's the 44th poorest district in the state, I would be happy to compare it to its ability to pay for newspapers as to yours, Senator Horgan, but I will tell you this, that people will wind up paying this tax, it is true. But the difficulty is that when Senator Cudaback says, gosh, let's not inch away at this, let's wait for the day when we can do the whole picture, the day when we can take on the whole picture is pushed further and further away when we can't take one small courageous step to bring sense and order into our tax policy. If we drop the ball today, which we will, it is further away that we are ever going to be able to do anything sensible with the tax system. What this will do, and notice what we are going to do here today. We are going to have a broader exemption at the end of the day than we started, even if you were to take away our language. If the Hartnett amendment passes, which it is going to, we will have a broader sales tax exemption than what we have on the books today. The end result is you are going to expand exemptions today. That is what you are going to do, and you have got the same slope of more and more holes in the Swiss cheese and less and less cheese when you get done here with all the platitudes about how noble the newspapers are. There are lots of noble goods out there, lots of them, but we tax goods. This is a good we should tax. There is no distinguishing characteristic that has been identified so far. As far as the failure for a public hearing, I understand that. It is an argument that will be commonly used, particularly when we didn't get the public hearing. If anybody in this state is sufficiently aware of our process to defend themselves, it is the newspapers. They haven't been silent. Their editorial pages haven't been quiet. Your telephone lines...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...haven't been silent because they don't know