

country can continue to have that ability to speak any way they wish, whether it be editorial writer, public servant that the press reports on, or anyone else who chooses to speak their mind. All we are asking is that this business that happens to be in the form of a newspaper collects some tax to let this country, in this case, this state continue to function. That is not too much to ask of those who purport to protect, purport to encourage, purport to maybe even a little bit sway opinion, if you will, on issues that affect the rest of us in this state and throughout the country. This is not something that is new to Nebraska. There are 11 other states that currently collect sales tax on newspapers. They don't find it that onerous. They look at it as a business decision. They look at the hundreds of thousands, millions of dollars, in this state alone, millions, multimillions, tens of millions of dollars that are collected in advertising revenue. Peel through a newspaper, pick out one of the Sunday papers, if you will, one of the dailies, look at the news as opposed to the advertisement that is in those newspapers. They ought to call them ad papers anymore because they are in a business, and their business is to sell newspapers. And they do that two ways, they do that through selling advertisement and through reporting news. And in most cases, I think they all do a fine job of both, but they are a business. This decision is, do we tax this business? Do we ask them to collect some tax that, yes, I have to pay, you have to pay if we choose to read the newspaper, but it is paid. It is collected and it helps us continue to operate state and local governments. I don't think that is too much to ask. I don't think they deserve special treatment. It is clearly a business decision. Their arguments against this...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...is business decisions. I'd urge you to oppose Senator Hartnett's amendment.

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

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the body. It is interesting to have this conversation this afternoon. I was waiting for Senator Robinson to get up and talk about the little people but that didn't really seem to come out. Senator Hefner made a point earlier on in this conversation this afternoon with regard to some of the problems that may well