

debate, a week or maybe two weeks ago, and I certainly didn't want to see us add sales tax on newspapers because, like I told you then, that would be very hard on these small news...especially these small newspapers in these small towns. And since that time, I have had two papers in my district that have filed for bankruptcy. So you can see that they are barely making a living, but to be fair to everybody and to get away from the constitutional problem, I think we ought to remove it from all, and that is what the Hartnett amendment would do, and I would encourage you to support it.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hefner. Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, one more tax exemption, here it is, here is another one. Let's all rally around and exempt some more from our tax base, winnow it down some more, and if we can't do it through tax exemptions, we should do it through tax credits. When we get done, we should find that one taxpayer who is left that we want to pay all of our taxes. I would suggest that the identity of that person is not in this room, clearly, certainly not in the executive branch. We ought to find that one person that we all seem to be aiming cutting our tax base down to, that that person is supposed to pay all our bills. We have an approach, by the way, that has been reported out from the Revenue Committee. It has in it a suggestion for a one-term solution, one-year solution for the personal property tax. It also suggests that we throw everybody at risk into a long-term discussion of the fair kinds of contributions from different sectors. That is to take place the year after that one-year mechanism comes to an end. I would suggest to you that we hold this issue harmless, like we did on General File, leave the tax base where it is, don't entertain another tax exemption on a sleepy Tuesday afternoon here, and wait for that basic long-term discussion, which the Governor has asked for which was part of his package, which the Revenue Committee has endorsed, and which I am sure has not slipped Senator Hefner's mind just because it was all of last week ago. It is possible to be distraught at this point in the day, a little forgetful of the things that we have traversed before as a committee, but we were to map out for ourselves a look at our entire tax base and where sensible tax exemptions should be made and where they shouldn't be made, and that process is contained in a bill reported out to this floor. If we are going to do something, let's do it as a system. Let's take a look at the whole package, and let's not make piece by piece changes like