

Legislature, and thank you, Senator Maurstad, and I... Senator Maurstad has put a considerable amount of time into this bill. In fact, the amendment that he brings is the bill and I think that it's fine. I can live with that amendment and I want to try to place into some perspective what this amendment does and why it's there as well. Obviously, when any bill like this gets introduced there is some interest and some concern particularly those in the political subdivisions. This amendment does phase in the increase, doesn't make it the full increase but it... it comes reasonably close. Again, these things haven't been changed for six years. As you remember, most all these notices are published in the small town newspapers. The larger newspapers or the larger communities have the Daily Record so these things are generally published in those publications rather than in the local hometown newspapers and so, for many of these people, the local hometown newspaper doesn't necessarily make a lot of money on these, but it's a matter of cash flow and it's a matter of readership. People do read the legal notices, particularly in the smaller communities. That helps the newspapers so it's not like you're giving them a windfall. And let me also point out to you that many of these smaller newspapers obviously have had tremendous increases in newsprint. Over the last, just even in the last year, most of the smaller newspapers, in terms of newsprint, the newsprint alone, which is obviously the largest piece of overhead, went up more than 30 percent in one year alone and when you don't have any increase in that particular corresponding amount that takes up that spot in the newspaper, it's very difficult. They've gone now six years without that increase that this is traditionally in that area of an increase. You'll see the others. Senator Maurstad was helpful and put out a list of what some of the other prices are in the other states per line, and as you look through the amendment it basically may look more complicated than it is but the amendment itself basically comes through and puts in a two-year phase-in of the increase. With that two-year phase-in and with the provision that you can negotiate the rates, that's when the schools and the cities and the counties and their associations basically said we're dropping our opposition to the bill. Now they're not coming in here hoisting 418...

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ..on their back going hip-hip-hurray. I don't want them...you know, I don't want to give that impression either, but they basically dropped their opposition at that