

increase that we haven't had in six years that every once in awhile this Legislature has to come in, increase that cost because the cost of putting out a newspaper increases. I'd certainly urge the adoption of the Maurstad amendment. He's been very helpful in negotiating the compromise with many of the political subdivisions and I support his effort to amend. Thank you.

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Senator Chambers, followed by Senators Schimek, Hall and Beutler.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I can understand Senator Kristensen, Senator Maurstad and others who support this kind of legislation are about. They are in areas where they have these little bitty newspapers and some of them can exist only from the money they get from these publication fees. I'm not in favor of maintaining newspapers for that purpose. To me, a newspaper, if it's going to be worthy of the title, based on how I view it, as an organ of information, enlightenment, political opinion, rigorous, vigorous, muscular public debate of the issues of the day, when they reduce themselves to advertising sheets and operations that live only if they get money from these legal fees, those are not newspapers. We talk about freedom of the press. When that concept came into being, it was not freedom of the press. It was freedom to publish. Before 1688 in England, that was during the reign of "Mickey and Sylvia", I wonder who was listening, right, "Mickey and Minnie Mouse", okay, I stand corrected, you would have to get a license before you could publish certain types of things and get the approval of a censor. In France, they had about 24 censors who carried out that function. Well, in 1688 it was determined that there would be freedom to publish without having to get a license in advance. That's where the concept of prior restraint came into being that a person cannot be prevented from publishing something prior to its publication, but you would be responsible for any harm, any misstatements, any defamation that you printed and that would be covered by the laws of libel. If you printed something in violation of the laws of libel the one libeled would be able to recover damages from you, but there was no way to prevent in advance certain things from being published with certain exceptions that, as they say in court, I won't mention, 'cause they didn't involve the ordinary run of things that would appear in newspapers, like they might be able to stop you from printing national secrets or