

to small communities because it's many times the only source they have of finding out what's really going on as far as their county government, their city government, various other governmental entities and they depend on that source. And, you know, if I knew that they were making a huge profit I guess I wouldn't be...I wouldn't be supporting your amendment, but I do know in some cases that it's a very tight line they're following because of the increased costs that you talked about earlier. And even though I am certainly opposed to mandating these kinds of things down to the local government, I understand that there is a great deal of importance in...in the...what the newspapers are able to provide to the people in the county and we certainly need to keep the people that we serve abreast of what's going on and I don't know at this particular time of a better way to do it. So, given that set of circumstances, I feel comfortable that we're doing what we might necessarily be totally happy with but, on the other hand, understand the circumstances and, in some way, feel that maybe we don't have a great deal of choice. I would hope that Senator Robinson would continue with the idea of doing a study on this whole proposition...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR VRTISKA: ...and next year we could come back and discuss again the fairness to the newspaper industry along with the costs that it cost to the various segments of government. With that, I will support the bill at this time and, again, reiterate that I hope that some more study can be done on the issue. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers on the committee amendments.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Maurstad a question.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Maurstad.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Maurstad, have the committee amendments been amended to incorporate the amendment you were offering the other day?

SENATOR MAURSTAD: Yes, they have, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you and that does make the committee amendments better, I meant that would make the bill better than