

kind of...they're trying to hang on and trying to survive out there. And, talk about the newspapers being important, they read them out there page to page because some...some of them don't even get good television in some of the areas so anything that's printed in a newspaper gets read in my area. So I really want to support the newspapers so I think I'll support the bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature. The issue in 418 is not joined appropriately for the concern that I have. I think it's a legitimate thing that papers get paid a fair amount for their services and I don't mind raising fees when costs have gone up. I have a concern in the area, and 418 doesn't get to it and it leaves me with this sort of blunt instrument of voting against 418. It's not that the rate of pay for newspapers is too high or too low. I think probably it's relatively low. It is that we are forced by law to publish a great many notices, many of whom I think have limited public value, and every time we try to cut one of those public notices out comes this army of small papers demanding that we keep every public notice being published. In the probate area, I had a law professor bring me an example of a probate notice that's required for heirs out of state for which there is always a legal remedy available and the notice serves no purpose. The second thing he said was that in ten years of practice he's not found a single lawyer who's ever found somebody who's been tripped by this notice. The notices cost roughly 150 bucks apiece and there are 10,000 probates a year, which means a million dollars a year of revenue for public notices that have yet to find a single person in ten years, and yet the attempt to repeal that was met with the opposition of the Nebraska Press Association demanding that this kind of material be put into the paper when there was no payoff. The difficulty is I don't want to grind them down with an amount of money that they can't reasonably make their costs on. That's all right. What I don't like is being forced by the statutes to publish notices that have limited public good and every time we try to cut them back to have...to have this army of small newspapers down here demanding that apparently they have to print these notices at a loss, it just doesn't make sense to me. I can't figure out how all those moving parts work. Wait, we're losing money, but please don't let us print any fewer public notices because (laugh) if you do you'll really injure the