

welfare from the government to the news industry. And the news industry should not want this subsidy itself. I'm not opposed to them being able to recoup the cost of publishing these announcements that are mandated by law. I'm not opposed to them being held harmless, that's what ought to be done. However, when they make a profit then it is totally inappropriate. The news media are the ones who always want to fall back on the First Amendment which guarantees what they call the freedom of the press. What that really means is a freedom to print without prior restraint. You need not get a license from the government before printing, as was the case in England and France before 16 something or other. Now what the media want is an unwholesome marriage between the government and themselves. Greed drives everything in this society, everything. And when you see these newspapers print editorials about the crusading media and how the government should not encroach on their prerogatives, should not restrict freedom of speech or freedom of the press, they turn right around and stick their hand out to that same government and say, give me a subsidy without which I cannot continue to publish. The hand that controls is the one that feeds, or if you want to turn it around, the hand that feeds is the hand that controls. And I think it's totally inappropriate for this Legislature to give this subsidy to the publishing industry. And notice I say publishing sometimes rather than news media. When there is a greater concern about circulation, advertisements and government subsidies, news comes in a poor third. There are newspapers throughout this country which are cutting their editorial staff, cutting the number of live reporters in order that they can concentrate on what is called the bottom line. Newspapers are for-profit corporations, they are interested in as much profit as possible for their owners or their stockholders or their investors. So the way to make more money is to pay out less in producing the product. Another (inaudible)...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...is to obtain government subsidies. I'm surprised that Senator Witek is not on her feet speaking against this activity. And because my time is almost up, but I've turned my light on, Senator Witek, I'm going to ask you a question, but it will have to be the next time my light comes on.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Senator Chambers, you're relinquishing the rest