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LB 171

SENATOR CROSBY: Senator Wickersham, will you yield?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: "Mr. Wizard", I was paying attention to the latter part of your conversation, because I got caught up in something else. And I heard something that I'm not sure if you gave as an example of a real situation or a hypothetical. Did some broadcaster say that the operation would be shut down rather than pay the state sales tax?

SENATOR WICKERSHAM: Senator, I think that was the implication of some of the discussions that I heard. I shouldn't...no one has represented that it would put them out of business, but I thought I heard that as a tenor in some of the discussion.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, thank you. And I would, if Senator Wickersham were saying he didn't believe that would happen, then I'm going to second what he said. I don't believe it's going to happen. Remember, there are other activities that this digital system will allow these broadcasters to engage in, for which they can charge money. So this is not a situation where they just make this expenditure to shift over, and then all they can do is send broadcast signals. There are other things, and they're not charitable organizations, they're not going to do these things for free. There are businesses which sometimes will have to retool because the demands of the market they serve have changed, so they have to invest money to retool, which means during the time of the transition they're not going to have as much that they can show as a liquid profit, because the money is being used for some other purpose. But in plowing it back into the business they're upgrading it so they will make more, after that upgrading, than they were making prior to it. Business has its ups and downs, it should never be guaranteed a smooth passage by the state. And that's why I always have to say, whenever I get a chance, one, two, three, four is out the door. And, by the way, you all who may not like the World-Herald, read their editorial this morning, because they point out some issues that are raised with reference to that question that need to be given consideration. But to come back to this, and I believe all these issues are tied in because they