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asked last year in a petition or an initiative was not an honest question before the voters. What it was, was a power grab and a money grab. Let's be responsible and respond appropriately. Thank you.

SENATOR HARTNETT: Thank you, Senator Erdman. Senator Maxwell.

SENATOR MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. President. I haven't said anything on this issue so far. I don't really have a guiding passion. I'm grudgingly supportive of what's before us. I have a similar concern that Senator Erdman expressed, but my reaction to it is different, but let me first just say I...it's getting entertaining listening to the commentary about the World-Herald. I, some of you know, I used to be an editorial writer at the World-Herald, as I like to say helping to promote truth, justice and the American way. Most people either laugh or say, I thought you were talking about the World-Herald, but...and, as you know, my former colleagues have not been shy about taking a bite out of me now and then on an issue. But just one observation. The World-Herald owns many newspapers or has an interest in many newspapers, and perhaps what we're discussing now is proof that the editorial boards are independent. Now Senator Beutler also brought out an interesting connection. I'll leave it to others to draw their own conclusions about what that may or may not mean. But the editorial boards act independently. That's why you could find different papers under the same corporate umbrella having different editorial opinions. There's not just one cookie-cutter corporate opinion that's passed out through the network. But I too, like Senator Schimek, I've been intrigued by the World-Herald editorials. The one yesterday essentially came across as a challenge, and it seemed to invite us to respond. I fired off a "Public Pulse" letter and, as an introduction to it, I said to the editor of the "Public Pulse" I am not one of the leaders on this issue and maybe one of them will want to respond, but if nobody else responds, here's something for the "Public Pulse." I didn't see it today. It's mercifully short. I'm just going to read it because I want to get it on the record because I think it addresses the editorial yesterday and the one today: A recent World-Herald editorial presented twelve assertions and challenged state senators to either refute them or vote against