

they...the newspaper has to hire a lawyer and go to court, and that is a big harassment. It's not necessary.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Okay, so what you are saying then is that you think that the newspapers and the magazines and the television stations and the radio stations should be totally and absolutely exonerated from any possible, any conceivable liability and any responsibility for participating knowingly, willfully, intentionally, what have you, in unfair and deceptive trade practices, because I think in the end that is what the amendment would do. It would provide blanket exemption to the media for any kind of misconduct which could be labeled as deceptive or unfair trade practice misconduct. Right now the news media is exempt so long as their running the publication is done in good faith without knowledge of the false, deceptive or misleading character of the publication. But this amendment, which LB 186 has, specifically says that a newspaper, magazine, television or radio station should have no legal responsibility whatsoever irrespective...irrespective of the degree of its involvement in the unfair deceptive trade practice actions. I think the amendment goes too far. I think that the...I should say I think the bill goes too far. I think the news media wants too much, and I would urge this body to vote against LB 186.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there any further discussion on the bill? Is the motion to advance the bill?

SENATOR NEWELL: It is.

SPEAKER MARVEL: All those in favor of advancing...

SENATOR NEWELL: Excuse me, I would like to close then...I was just...well, Senator Johnson, you know your remarks and your concern and your opposition to the bill is most distressing. I think the problem here is a simple one, that newspapers and other forms of media are advertising agencies and they pass through information, they basically...radio or newspaper basically passes through information. They are not expected and no one expects them to go and out and look to see if the clothes are on the rack that's being advertised, or the car is in the lot that is being advertised, and I shouldn't imagine that they are ever held responsible for this kind of deception, but on the other hand, they do have to go to court all the time. Now I...I guess I don't mean to be negative about attorneys, but I don't think we ought to have every piece of legislation ought to be supportive of attorneys and give them work to do, and I don't think that those attorneys that the radio and T.V. stations and the