

don't want to have to collect it. I pay it. They don't want to have to collect it. They don't want to have to collect it, and reimburse it to the state. They don't want to have to provide that function to the state as a revenue source. Should you tax news or not? The policy decision has been made. We tax it, we have taxed it for a long time, in other forms. But this is one form that has had special status, has had special treatment day in and day out, year in and year out, edition after edition after edition. It is time that they ranked right up there with the rest of the news and be given the same sort of treatment, and that being one of revenue raiser for the state, because as these issues come forward, tax exemption after tax exemption, we need to deal with them. If we are not going to deal with them as a whole, if we are not going to look at our entire tax system, which I would advocate that we do, we are going to have to deal with it in a piecemeal fashion, which is unfortunate. It is an unfortunate way to deal with tax policy but, unfortunately, that is where we are at, and until we address it either piece by piece,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR HALL: ...or as a whole, what you are going to see is that the rates are going to have to continue to climb because our base continues to shrink. This is the first attempt I think this year to, and by the Revenue Committee, I think, to address expanding that base. That is all it does, it expands the base a little bit. Not a lot, tune of 3.2, 3.3 million dollars, I think, is what it raises, but that is the direction that it moves in. It takes away some of that favored nation status that newspapers have had because they have the power of the ink and the power of the press, and they have been able to rally around that. At this point in time, I don't think that is a justification anymore. I think we need to hitch up our boots and just say, look, we need the revenue. We need to take away one exemption, and if we take away your exemption first, it is going to be a lot easier...

SPEAKER BAACK: Time.

SENATOR HALL: ...to take away some of the other exemptions when that editorial page begins to print. I would urge the rejection of Senator Hartnett's amendment to the committee amendments.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Hall. We will now go to