

because I know it is something we are all interested in but I have to make some comments. And I will admit that I could go either way on this sometimes because I have mixed feelings. Senator Landis did a good job of describing the reason that we should but I guess I am going to come down on the side of Senator Hartnett's amendment. And the reason is that I see press coverage, in this case particularly newspapers, in a broader sense, and it does do a public service. I see the press perhaps unique in the United States. It is one of the few things that is in our Constitution, the power of the press, and I assume that that means broader than that, freedom of speech, and so forth. But it is unique. It is essential to an educated society in many cases as government goes through its various responses to government. It is not for me to say that the press is perfect. In fact, it irritates me to no end many times. I think it badly abuses the power that it does have. I think it lacks objectivity, they're biased in their coverage, those things that I think many are venting their feelings here in some way, perhaps subtly, but, at least, that is what is going on. In the long run, the newspaper does a public service, and I think that is a higher value. We have had some exemptions in here previously for asking it for art and other things. Certainly, a newspaper does as much for democracy today as many of the other exemptions that we have granted. I will be interested, I do have an editorial here. I've collect several but one is from March 3rd, '91, where the Lincoln Journal-Star does ask that to put the tax back on the tax rolls a great share of the personal property now exempted. So I was looking for that in other papers. I haven't yet detected it but I do know that there is an effort among many newspapers, and this one, specifically, that wants to return all personal property to the tax rolls. So it is interesting, I'd say it is an interesting dilemma because on one hand they ask for all exemptions to be returned, on the other hand they are not bashful about asking for an exemption. But be that as it may, I think in the larger view, in my opinion, it is important to have press coverage in a democracy, a very vital thing, to get the depth of reporting, to get the articles that we can't even yet, in my opinion, get through other media. So I am going to support the amendment, but I have to admit I have mixed concerns many times.

PRESIDENT MOUL PRESIDING

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Wehrbein. I will now recognize Senator Hartnett, followed by Senators Robak, Crosby,