

great deal of very needed public programs. Senator Robinson, this \$3 million is not out of the blue. If you want to control costs for those people that you are concerned about, you do it on the budget side. You make their tax rate go down because we don't spend those taxes. If you want to decrease the costs, that is the way you get to it. What you don't do is expand the sales tax exemption so you can continue to give favoritism...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR LANDIS: ...to the newspapers.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Landis. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Question.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The question has been called. I see sufficient seconds. All those in favor please vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK. 26 ayes, 2 nays, Madam President, to cease debate.

PRESIDENT MOUL: We will cease debate. Senator Hartnett, do you have closing?

SENATOR HARTNETT: Madam Chairman, members of the body, we have had a long and interesting discussion on this little amendment of mine. I think we want to bring to the body that we have never, never, never taxed newspapers since the state was founded in 1865. It has never been part of it. There are 44 states that have sales tax, and as like Senator Hall said, 11...33 do not tax newspaper, only 11 of them do. And I think we are faced with a big issue this year, and Senator Landis kind of touched on it, a personal property issue, and is it the time, is this the right time to expand and put sales tax on a product that has never been taxed? And the reason we are doing the other part is taking it off periodicals is simply because of a court decision, I think the Supreme Court, either court...state courts across the country. So it is simply to make the playing field level with that, and we have lots of exemptions. We have a lot of exemptions in our...from sales tax. We are talking about, Senator Landis talked about a hole. We really have not had the \$3 million that Senator Hall said, but we are simply...we are probably losing some revenue but the Department of Revenue can't tell us. So I simply would ask the body to