

support this amendment to the amendment. Senator Hefner wants a little bit of my time, if there is any.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the body, I rise, again, and urge you to support the Hartnett amendment. I think it is a good amendment. Just remember, the Revenue Committee did not give a newspaper a chance to defend themselves. They did not give them a chance for a public hearing, and I think this is wrong. Now I am not saying if we have a bill introduced where we do away with a lot of exemptions, maybe they should be one of them. But right at the present time, I don't think it does. And let me tell you again, that I believe that it would be very hard on the small towns because these small newspapers are struggling. They don't have near the advertising people that comes to them for running ads as the large daily papers do. And so I think that a small newspaper is very valuable for a small town to survive because they kind of hold a town together. With the increase of postage rates last spring, and I was talking to the local editor of the paper in Coleridge, where I live, and he says that was quite a blow to them, and he says I lost some customers because they just felt they couldn't afford to pay any more for that subscription. And now he says if you put the sales tax on it, and he says I know it is not going to come out of my pocket, he said we are going to add it on, but he says it is going to make a difference. He says I am going to lose a few more customers, and he said pretty soon I can't survive, and I believed him. I believe that we have hundreds of these small papers in these small towns. Are we going to say we don't want you to survive? I don't think we do. If we ever want to do rural revitalization, this would be a good way to support the Hartnett amendment and do it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. You have heard closing on this amendment. We will now proceed to vote. All those in favor of the Hartnett amendment to the committee amendments please vote aye, opposed nay. Please record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 20 ayes, 11 nays, Madam President, on adoption of Senator Hartnett's amendment to the committee amendments.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment is adopted. Are there any other