

April 2, 1974

I think we've finally reached the point of total absurdity in here. We've got a solution to everything. We've got pressing problems and so we keep coming up with amendments and new motions to return one bill or another. We're never even going to touch those things that are underlined. When we set our course, as Senator Kelly pointed out the other day, we selected what we considered were the most important issues. We then elected because of our shortage of time to underline them and agreed to take them up first. And we have completely avoided even getting to them. Now there are a lot of those underlined bills that are most necessary to pass yet this session that are essentially non-controversial but we may never ever hit them because we keep playing around with every other idea. So I think we should start at this point or four weeks ago rejecting any more ideas to solve problems until we start solving the problems of the underlined bills.

PRESIDENT: All right, is there any further discussion on this bill? Senator Stahmer, you may close.

SENATOR STAHMER: Waive closing...

PRESIDENT: Closing is waived. The question is, shall this bill be returned to Select...unbracketed and returned to Select File for a specific amendment. All those in favor vote aye. Those opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Are you satisfied I've busted the board open long enough? Senator Stahmer. Clerk will record.

CLERK: 4 ayes, 19 nays.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. Clerk will read next motion. Senator Chambers.

CLERK: It's to return it to Select File for specific amendment to remove the sales tax from food other than in eating places and provide an operative date. Signed, Senator Chambers.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. So that we'll be clear on what is being done, the bill that I'm dealing with is not the ADC bill which ultimately will pass and provide the increases which the Legislature felt were suitable. This is almost an exact duplicate of that bill which the Governor had introduced and it is no longer needed. So I'm not touching ADC at all. This amendment will take the place of the contents of the Governor's bill which contents are no longer needed. I think this is a serious issue. Partly because of the passage of the school aid bill which will provide or cause a substantial increase in the sales tax as well as the income tax and you all know what a regressive tax is. This is what the sales tax is. Everybody pays the same rate of tax regardless of ability or inability to pay it. Food is an absolute essential. Already certain medications are exempted from the sales tax. Certain other types of equipment related to pollution control are exempted from the sales tax. The purpose of this bill is to accomplish something which I think is very just, which is essential and necessary. The sales tax on food hurts those most who are least able to pay it, who can least pay for the many amounts of food that are needed already. So I'm asking that you return this bill to Select File so that this specific amendment can be considered.