

April 2, 1974

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I rise to support the Senator's motion. Partly because this is one case where I can support the Governor of the State of Nebraska. A year ago he went to a great deal of effort in order to get this Body to do this same thing. And I would presume he hasn't changed his mind. I think what Senator Chambers is doing is an admirable thing and I rise to support it.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DE CAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I realize this is going to be an unpopular view. But the fact is there are a lot of people that probably pay no tax whatsoever almost except what they pay on food. Now you can say it's regressive, you can say it taxes the poor, and you can say all the other terrible things about taxes and poor people but the fact is that every member of society so long as they're taking benefits and participating in the American system should probably help support that system and be aware of how it's financed. So when you start narrowing the tax base...today it's food, tomorrow one thing or another. I think you're going in a dangerous direction. Now I realize it's unpopular but the issue did come up before a committee this year. The issue...the idea was rejected so I think this is a little late and probably the wrong time to be making such a significant change.

PRESIDENT: Speaking order...Senators Nore, Keyes, Frank Lewis and Marvel. The Chair would urge you, without binding you, to keep your remarks brief. Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President and members of this Body. I think this would a bad precedent to set. I want everyone to pay some kind of...have that honor of paying some kind of a tax. We have a lot of people that don't pay...that aren't....if we take this off, won't pay any tax. Now, let's say that folks that are on ADC or Old Age Assistance or whatever have you, let's raise their payment enough so they pay some taxes so they can go downtown and say I'm a taxpayer. This way you're taking them off the taxpaying roles. So they're not a taxpayer. They're not a responsible citizen anymore as far as paying taxes. I want everyone to pay some kind of a tax and if they're not able to pay it, let's provide some kind of a relief program so they can pay taxes so they can be responsible citizens.

PRESIDENT: Senator from Papillion. Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. President, I had passed out to you this morning a letter. I want you to know that we've taken about 65% of the tax off of property. We'll have, when the bills we have passed in the last few years are in effect. We've taken 65% of the tax off of property and we have increased the sales tax on food by about 40% or 45%. I think it's one of the best things we could do to take this....I certainly support Senator Chambers and what he's trying to do.

PRESIDENT: Senator from Bellevue. Senator F. Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, just very briefly, I think we've provided some tax relief under special conditions for various groups. Personal property tax, I remember, is at a rate of about \$6 million dollars a year. To go ultimately