

April 8, 1974

people who are paying the increased cost of food and clothes now need the relief. And I think that if I would have the opportunity here, I would like to have seen the \$18 have been extended in the amendment that Senator Burbach's talking about. And he's on the right track. It should stay at \$13. We very definitely have got to give these people some type of relief and the only relief they can get is to get it almost in instant relief. And it would have to come at this point. I do wonder like Senator Stahmer, it amazes me that all of a sudden from the state aid bill, we are going to begin to dip into that fund for \$11 to \$15 million dollars. And I'm sure that there are other legislators here, there are other legislators here who would like to see this fund dipped into for other programs. It's noble that it is in the food tax credit but Senator Stahmer is so right in the fact that we have many other ongoing programs in state government that ought to look at this fund since there is that much money there. And should put their dipper down into the bucket and come up with maybe \$10 or \$15 to fund some other type of state government. As an example, maybe this is where we should have additional welfare money. This is just another example where I think, if we've got this extra money, we could use it.

PRESIDENT: Read the amendment on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, an amendment to the Marvel amendment. Clerk read amendment found on page 1520 of Journal.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Burbach for his amendment.

SENATOR BURBACH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. I think this is an important amendment to Senator Marvel's amendment. Because if we look at the \$10 refund we are currently getting at 2½% sales tax. We have five hands, five hands in the \$10 so each ½% actually is worth \$2.00. If we go to a 3½% sales tax, then we would have a \$14 figure but our groceries have increased more than 25%. So we must figure and use the figure of a 25% increase over the \$14 where we would be. We would then come up to \$17.50. I presume there will be some increase in the price of groceries between now and January 1, 1975. So I think the \$18 figure is a very accurate figure and a very close figure. So long as we wish to retain the food tax credit on our groceries. I think this is the important thing we must consider. There are those who say they do not want a tax on groceries. Imagine the chaos in the stores. Understand the problems involved without a tax. This is a sound way of giving exemption on groceries, on food items. Whether they be the food items that you and I use or the baby or wherever the case may be. This is a much sounder approach to recognize what that amount is that is being currently assessed at the grocery counter and then giving the proper refund at such a time. And this is a less costly way by far.....

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(Begin Belt 5)

to recognize this problem than if we were to exempt food completely. Imagine the amount of auditors we would need.