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effect, will get a rebate in dollars on their food purchase by the rebate of the food sales tax. All transients in our state pay sales tax on food and properly so. It would appear to me that we have the best of all worlds in our present system as it would ensure that we do not tax the necessity of food which in Nebraska we do not tax the necessity of food. It is immediately rebated to the citizens in cash or in income tax credit as you, the individual citizen, desires. In past years I have been informed by the department and in checking with them at this time, 97, 97½% has been the refund ratio of the citizens of Nebraska. I just don't see how any system could be more economical to operate, more fair to all concerned and more accurate in its application. I oppose Senator Newell's bill and those are my reasons. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, my good friend, young Senator Newell, I was willing to take the tax off the food before Senator Newell was a member of this Legislature. I think Senator Chambers will recall that time after time I have supported that notion. I support it for several reasons but in line with the thinking of my good friend, Senator Newell, I would have to confess that first of all I could do it because of a selfish reason. I think that if you don't tax food you might encourage people to buy more of it and I produce food and, therefore, Senator Newell, before someone else accuses me of doing it for a selfish reason I will say that that is one reason for doing it, but secondly I do it because I think it is wrong to tax the basic necessity of life. I recognize that we have a system whereby we try to reimburse the individual for the cost of the tax on food. I think it is probably fairly successful. I know as Senator Kahle and Senator Carsten have pointed out, there is some problems with the removal of the tax but I will support the removal of the tax on food this year as I always have and I will support it whether Senator Newell introduces a bill or Senator Chambers or anyone else in this body and I very frankly know that there are going to be problems if we pass the bill but those problems can be met. They can be met in a variety of ways and I think they can be met more satisfactorily than to continue that tax on the basic necessity of life and one which I think should never have been instituted in the first place. So, Senator Newell, once again I support your bill and it is with great pleasure that I do so.