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PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator George.

SENATOR GEORGE: Thank you, Mr. President. I believe I basically and philosophically believe that we should not have any sales tax on basic food items and you will probably remember my stand last time when we debated it on the floor. I tried desperately to get a compromise to \$22.00. It would have been \$2.00 higher but no, we had everybody stuck on either \$20.00 or \$24.00, so I basically support that, but since we all have to pay our income taxes, just a few days ago, I made some calculations and I have a family of four and so therefore I get an \$80.00 rebate and with that rebate I can buy up to \$51.00 per week in groceries without paying one cent of sales tax. I would have to buy more than \$51.00 per week to really start paying sales tax on food. If you believe in the philosophy that the basic food items should be exempt from sales tax, then I would propose to you that is what we are doing all ready and I also want to remind you that if you get a grocery bag that cost \$51.00 per week I will bet you that maybe one third or half of that are not food items that you have bought in that supermarket. So how much more do you want to exempt? Do you want to exempt everything including luxury foods? Can we really afford that? If it is necessary to increase the \$20.00 I most certainly will vote for it and I believe Senator Maresh has a bill which we will discuss today but I think taking it off completely is unnecessary to guarantee that we have an exemption on basic food items and I don't think we can afford it either because as already discussed this morning Senator Newell did not have any specific idea how to replace it. That is always the same problem that haunts us. It is easy to take a tax off but how do you balance it out and how do you replace it? Therefore, I believe that we should discuss an increase in the food tax exemption. That may be justifiable but to take it all off I don't think it is necessary and I don't think we can afford it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this bill is what I refer to from now on as the eternal dreamer's bill. Senator Newell knows as well as I do that the Legislature is not going to do anything to benefit the poor and I listen with interest to people like Senator Kahle and others who are in a position or in a part of the state where they can take advantage of what Berkley Bedell from Iowa called the welfare for wealthy loan plan