

April 10, 1979

LB 16

Senator Koch, do you wish to speak to the amendment? Senator Lewis? Frank Lewis is not... Senator Lewis, do you want to speak to the amendment? All right, this is the Newell amendment to the bill. Senator Frank Lewis. No, this is an amendment, a technical amendment. All right. Senator Kahle, you had your light on again.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask Senator Newell what this does to the bill?

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell, will you respond?

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes. Senator Kahle, originally in the bill we said that food items bought at retail places for home consumption and the definition was needed, a better definition was needed so that the Department of Revenue would not have to go through what they considered a long lengthy process should this bill pass of delineating those items that would be eligible and those items that would not. Most states in the union that have adopted a sales tax, elimination of sales tax on food, have adopted this definition. The federal government does it on a yearly basis. It basically outlines the food items that are eligible to be purchased with food stamps as opposed to those items that are not clearly food items and, therefore, not eligible to be bought with food stamps. It is very technical. It relieves the Department of Revenue a whole lot of extra work in terms of coming up with those definitions of those food items. So it is very technical in nature.

SENATOR KAHLE: Next question. Why wasn't it put right into the bill if it is necessary?

SENATOR NEWELL: The original bill... Because I didn't know. The department asked me to do this and I felt that they know how to administer these things better than I did. They asked me a few days ago to do that and I agreed to it since I thought it was administratively correct. It was something that I didn't think was necessary and never thought about before. They just brought it to my attention and I think it, in fact, does the same thing. It is basically what they thought the bill was in the first place. You know, I have no better answer than that. They wanted it and I agreed that it was a simple definition that everybody understood and I accepted it.

SENATOR KAHLE: Well I hope everybody does understand it because I don't and I believe that this does prove one