

April 10, 1979

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moral question and I think what the Legislature is doing when it taxes food is wrong. I think it is morally indefensible and I think it is a sin if there be such a thing. When I reviewed the Old Testament and the New Testament I can think of two miracles which occurred which indicated what God and in the Old Testament and his Son who Jesus is supposed to be in the New Testament felt about certain situations. The Hebrews had been wandering in the wilderness and they were on the verge of starvation. So by what you would call a miracle, manna was produced. Manna was given to the people. They were fed. Not oil wells were produced, Senator Kahle, not confinement hog feeding procedures, not agribusiness operations, but food that people needed to hold body and soul together. In the New Testament Jesus was talking to people about the same things the Chaplain comes up here and talks about. They followed him and sat there all day and they didn't have any means to eat and the disciples came to Him and said these people have been here all day and they are hungry. What are we going to do. Jesus said what He would say to the Legislature, feed them, and they said, we don't have any food. The Legislature says we have no compassion so Jesus said, take from this little boy and we will feed them with this and what did they have to feed thousands of people, a few loaves and a couple of fish. And Jesus began to strip the fish into pieces and break the bread and lo, and behold, everybody was fed. Now that is what I am taught by Christians, that Jesus performed a miracle to feed the hungry. Why should it take a miracle to touch people's compassion enough to feed the hungry? Jesus is your leader, not mine. Why can't you stand up here and quote what your leader tells you? Why do I have to do it to remind you? Sometimes when people reach a desperate set of circumstances any means has to be resorted to to bring about a needed and necessary change. This article from today's Star indicates, and I know there is about a minute, that there is a citizen's price crusade launched because everything is soaring in terms of what it costs, gasoline for automobiles, heating oils and other fuels for homes, and now we deal with the most basic element that human beings require and that is food. When I was going to a Catholic University they taught that a person has a moral right to all of those things which are necessary to maintain life. Food, clothing and shelter were among those always mentioned and yet here sits the Legislature which opens every morning with prayer and I tried to stop that charade and you wouldn't do it. Now what I am asking you to do is since you pray,

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