

April 10, 1979

LB 44

SPEAKER MARVEL: We are ready for #10, special order, LB 44.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 44. Title read. The bill was read on January 4 of this year. It was referred to the Revenue Committee for public hearing. The bill was advanced to General File, Mr. President. There are no committee amendments pending.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, LB 44 increased the food tax credit from \$20 to \$23. You ask how did I arrive at this figure? We checked with the University of Nebraska, the Department of Labor and Bureau of Labor Statistics told us that from 1976, December 1976 to December 1978 the cost of living has increased by 17.8%. If you apply this to the \$20 and you get \$23.56. That is the way it was on January 1, 1979, but when this bill was drafted the increase was not quite that much so that is why we arrived at the \$23 figure, the way the bill was drafted about in November or so. The amount has been constantly increased according to the cost of living increase. We have had a number of increases since I have been here. In 1972 we increased it from \$7 to \$10, in 1974 from \$10 to \$13, in 1975 from \$13 to \$16, and in 1977 from \$16 to \$20. Each time we had quite a discussion if the amount was correct, adequate, and each time the Legislature agreed to go along with the amount that the bill called for and I hope we can keep this amount at the \$23 amount. I am real fearful that if we go too high, any amount over \$23 might cause the Governor to veto the bill because it would exceed the amount of the budget. So, Mr. Speaker, I move that LB 44 be advanced to E & R Initial. We have argued the pros and cons for if the tax should be repealed or if the credit should be increased and I don't think we should have to go through the argument of whether the tax should be repealed. We argued that this morning. What we should talk about this afternoon is the amount, if \$23 is the amount we agree on or less or more, whichever way the body wishes to go.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Maresh a question or two.

SENATOR MARESH: I will try to, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Maresh, when we were in here yapping this morning, there was much discussion of what is