

April 10, 1979

LB 44

here. Senator Hoagland. Senator Johnson.

SENATOR JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, fellow members, I rise in opposition to Senator Wesely's amendment. I oppose his amendment because it's woefully inadequate. I want to ask you as a favor to the State of Nebraska and to me to open your bill book to LB 325 and to read the fiscal note attached to LB 325. As Senator Hefner notes, the Revenue Committee spent considerable time going through LB 16, the food tax repeal bill; LB 44, the bill to increase the food sales tax from \$20 to \$23, the food sales tax credit from \$20 to \$23; and LB 325, Senator Keyes' bill concerning the extension of the half cents sales tax and elimination of sales tax credit, but if you look at LB 325, you will see that our fiscal analyst has projected in 1979 the per person food cost to be \$1,009. Multiply that by 3%. And that is the per person food cost for food prepared at home. Multiply that by 3% and you find a per capita sales tax of \$30 in 1979, not \$20, not \$23, not \$26 but \$30. Furthermore, that figure jibes with what Senator Wesely has already told you he learned from the Department of Revenue, that the Department of Revenue believes that the average per capita food sales tax cost in this state is \$31, not \$20, not \$23, not \$26 but \$31. Now this morning when we dealt with Senator Newell's bill we kept stating over and over again that the real purpose of the food sales tax credit was not to generate revenue to the State of Nebraska but instead to return to the taxpayer their food sales tax cost. Well, of course, the return to the taxpayer for the food sales tax cost is premised upon our returning to the taxpayer what the taxpayer pays in food sales tax. If you look at LB 325 you will see what the Revenue Committee dealt with and you will see what we in the State of Nebraska deal with, that our food sales taxes are far more than \$20, \$23, \$26. They are in the neighborhood right now of \$30. I, therefore, oppose Senator Wesely's amendment because it is woefully inadequate.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: I would call for the question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? Okay. The question before the House is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? One more time, have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 24 ayes, 4 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.