

with their exemptions and I can go into a litany of those exemptions, personal property tax, freeport, household goods, intangible tax for businesses. These exemptions have basically benefitted the rich and the powerful in this state but we have never been able to deal with the basic exemption, one of a basic necessity, food, and the reason we have not been able to do that is because they are not the rich and the powerful. They are the poor and the needy. So with all our other exemptions we ought to be able to provide this exemption for the people of this state so that everyone can benefit, not the special interest groups, but everyone in this state and for that reason we need to exempt the sales tax on food. For that reason it would be inequitable, a continuation of inequality in our tax system not to exempt the sales tax on food and for that reason I contend this Legislature is remiss if it does not choose to exempt the sales tax on food. This is a conservative approach. It is a compromised approach. It is a reasonable approach and one this Legislature should and must accept. I thank you.

PRESIDENT: Before we go to the next speaker the Chair recognizes Speaker Marvel for purposes of an announcement. Will all the members give their attention to the Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I am just going to read this...this has to do with the bill drafting procedure and all bill requests submitted by noon today will be delivered to the members of the Legislature on the tenth legislative day which is Wednesday the 23rd. Any bill request submitted after noon today cannot be guaranteed for delivery by the end of the tenth day. So if you have requests, please get them in by noon today and this comes from the bill drafter.

PRESIDENT: All right we will then proceed with the debate on LB 16. The Chair recognizes Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, Senator Newell, I would like to ask you a question. I did not notice it as you were talking about LB 16. I have in my hand a letter from Mayor Al Veys of Omaha and I think everybody has this letter which says that if LB 16 were to pass it would cost Omaha six million dollars. First of all, do you know if this figure is correct?

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell, will you respond?

SENATOR NICHOL: Or if it is approximately correct, Senator Newell, is all I wanted to know.