

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, Senator Newell was correct in most of what he said about me with reference to repealing the tax on food, however, I am a stickler for words when they are used as adjectives to describe me and he said that I am a philosophical man and that is why I was going for a total repeal of all taxes on all food. I choose to take the word principled rather than philosophical. I think that if food is considered to be an essential for existence and survival, regardless where a person consumes that essential, there ought not be a tax imposed on it by the state. As John Marshall said many many years ago when he was Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, the power to tax is the power to destroy and in many instances poor people are operating on such a tight budget that the supposed few pennies that are eaten up in sales tax on food should not make much difference but in reality they do. We have been told that when time comes to pay taxes it is better to have a sales tax because people pay it bit by bit as they go along rather than having to make one lump sum payment of some other kind of tax at the end of the year. So they say the pay as you go is the best thing for taxes, but then they reverse the logic when we deal with the granting of an inadequate rebate at the end of the year to compensate for the money paid on taxes on food. They say that the lump sum payment is better for the poor than having the money as they go along to purchase food that they need. So what they are saying I guess is that if you go through three hundred and sixty-four hungry days, that is made up on the three hundred and sixty-fifth day when you get an inadequate rebate for the taxes you have paid on food. I can never be sympathetic to any governmental subdivision which taxes an essential like food. We have heard in the national media that there are older people trying to determine whether they will eat or have heat and you shouldn't have to decide between meat and heat. You should be able to have both of them. We hear talk on this floor about the tremendous amounts of grain that are produced in this country which ought to be sold to Russia in order to line the pockets of certain producers of grain. Yet not much is said about the use of that grain to line the stomachs of hungry people in this state. Perhaps if there was some way to take this surplus grain and show charity at home, the concern that I have about the tax on food might be mitigated to some extent, but when I see money as the determinant of all of the issues that we discuss here, then I know that speaking about the hunger of the children and the older people will not carry much weight as far as persuading anybody how to vote, but I want to be on record also. It is kind of ironic that those who are against abortion under any and all cir-