

January 21, 1980

LB 16

PRESIDENT: The motion carries. The Newell amendment is adopted. Are there any other amendments, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have nothing further on the bill, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: All right, we will proceed then with the debate. I still have a number of people wishing to speak on the bill, starting with Senator Marsh.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President, I call the question.

PRESIDENT: All right, the question is called for on the voting of the advancing of the bill. Do I see five hands on this? I do. The question is, shall debate cease on the advancing of the bill itself? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 17 ayes, 22 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The motion fails. We shall proceed then with Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, members of the body, this is the same issue that we discussed many times in the last years and I don't want to carry this thing out a great deal but I think we...I absolutely refuse to vote for anything that takes money off the tax rolls without putting it back. That is statement number one. Number two, is that I am not convinced that we are going to get the correct division of the products as they are checked off in the grocery store. I think many of us have a big fantasy that we are going to save an awfully lot on our grocery bill if we take off all the food tax which is a fallacy because half the products you buy, I have watched lately, or even more, will not be tax deductible. The other thing that I am quite vehement about and in the last years have watched and I think Senator Chambers is out of the room, but we passed a great deal of legislation that is supposed to help the poor. We passed 518 even the exemption on personal property tax. You can just about guess who we helped the most, not the poor. We helped the big operator, the chain store, the big farmer and the little fellow got a little help, but with food tax it seems as though you are trying to tell us that only the poor buy food. I am sure it is a little bit of a bigger chore for them to buy food because they don't have the income, but I want to lay this on you. I think that the majority or the biggest share of the food tax that we are collecting comes from the affluent and not the poor and if you take it off completely and don't