

February 7, 1980

LB 44

than we could otherwise be. Okay, no acerbation of inflation, no constitutional problem. The third objection raised was that we were taking away legislative prerogatives but that I think is a false argument entirely because even with the consumer price index anyone who chooses to do so can file a bill next year and the following year and the following year to increase the credit or even, I am sure that we will have Senator Newell back with his bill to eliminate the sales tax on food altogether, so no prerogatives are taken away whatsoever. And the fourth objection that we heard yesterday, and in my opinion this is the most outrageous objection that was raised, was that Senator Maresh wouldn't have enough to do. Now I submit to you that if you pass this amendment, Senator Maresh can work very hard every year to repeal this amendment. In addition to that he will have some additional time in which to double his kill motions on Newell's sales tax elimination bill so there will be plenty for him to do. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers, your light is on. Do you wish to speak to LB 44? Or was your light on from the last time?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, are we on the Beutler amendment to LB 44?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Yes.

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, Mr. President and members, I just simply rise to support Senator Beutler and the effort that he has gone through with this amendment. It makes sense to me that we, if it is the intent of the Legislature to refund the food tax dollars that the average citizen of the State of Nebraska spends, and I think that must be the intent when we adopted \$28, then why not say that that is good enough for future years also without having to get into a political hassle over that amount, go through the expense of introducing bills, go through the use of time of this body of debating it and we have spent hours on this subject. I certainly support Senator Beutler in the amendment that he is offering and would urge this body to adopt it also.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, I support this amendment, maybe to the surprise of many, but I don't find it real easy to try to increase this tax each year. It has been

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