

March 10, 1980

LB 666

up your hands so we can see where you are, those of you who are involved in the Youth Government Day. Okay, we welcome you to the Unicameral. The Chair recognizes Senator Newell who has an amendment. You better read the amendment, Mr. Clerk, first.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Keyes and Senator Newell moves to amend the Schmit amendment of LB 666 by placing LB 16 into it as amended.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell. This is an amendment to the Schmit amendment.

SENATOR NEWELL: Yes. Mr. President and members of the body, I...we have been discussing...we are trying to talk about process, talking about when bills should come up and so forth, and since nobody wants to listen to those arguments, I have kind of caved in myself. I think that this bill is an excellent bill to amend and I want to offer this amendment to the Schmit amendment which would only eliminate the sales tax on food. Now I have been trying to do that for a number of years and I had a shot earlier this year and I could have brought the bill back up and wasted some more of this body's time but I decided not to, but I have changed my mind on this. I have changed my whole attitude on what is right and proper. I have come to realize that there is no such thing as process and fairness isn't all that important. The real key question of this whole thing is who has got the votes. You know, it just struck me that all I need is a majority. I don't even need 25 votes and I have been wanting to get rid of the sales tax on food for a long time, so I offer this amendment. This would exempt sales tax on food from all grocery store items. I'm not talking about, you know, those meals and so forth, we're just talking about food bought at grocery stores. The costs are minimum, probably a little more than what the Schmit amendment does. This may not be the proper vehicle, but any opportunity you get these days I guess you have to take. Senator Keyes is the co-sponsor. If Senator Keyes would like to use some of the opening time I would be more than willing to grant him that.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Do you want to grant him some of your time? Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, how much time is he going to grant me? Because I could talk for half an hour on this and not say all that needs to be said.