

April 30, 1975

better for all of us.

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak, this bill is on Select File.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, I move that LB 430 be advanced to E & R for engrossment.

PRESIDENT: The question is, shall the bill be advanced? All those in favor say aye. Contrary nay. The bill is advanced.

CLERK: OK. Mr. President, I move to return the bill LB 430 to Select File for specific amendment. Section 3 of the Duis amendment shall expire as of January 1, 1977. Signed Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. Chairman, what this would do, it would leave the \$16 limit in until, as the way I interpret it being written and, of course, I will subsequently check that with the bill drafter to make sure that that is the correct language and we can correct that as an E & R amendment, if that is not exactly the way it should be written. The intention is that to leave the \$16 credit as Senator Duis has proposed it until January 1 of 1977. At that point in time, after people have filled out their income tax for 1976, effective from that date forward, there would be no sales tax on food and the original Chamber bill would be intact with this particular amendment. The intention is to do what a number of people have suggested that to take the tax off of food. I have never talked to so many people in my life who claim that this is a bad tax, that it is a regressive tax, that it is a terrible tax but unfortunately, because of the city of Omaha, people who have traditionally supported this particular tax have changed their opinion on it, or the situation in Lincoln, or the situation in Bellevue or the situation in other communities as they adopt this form of taxation. The tax is unfair. Most of our neighboring states have made the transition to not taxing food. The hue and cry has always been that you can't do this in a timely and orderly way. I assume that everyone ought to be able to get their household in order and their finances in order and make budgetary decisions by January 1, 1977 and get rid of the tax that so many people give lip service on, both in this body and other government places. When people were running for office, they went to their people and said, boy, this food tax is terrible. It is absolutely atrocious. It is something that shouldn't be done. It's regressive and then when we get down here it is on a, however, basis. However, I feel that because of extenuating circumstances and economics of the time that the place to really sock people for taxation is when they buy the necessities of life. Well, this is a way out. This is to put people on notice that in this state effective in 1977 there will be no more, no more tax on food. For the life of me, I can't understand how we are able to create a very complex, a very involved, a very cumbersome process to achieve an objective. The tax rebate, the people that have to file, there are people that forget to file, there are people that don't know to file. The easy way to get rid of that is when they check their groceries through the