

here. We are trying to use sales tax on food to be a revenue maker for the State of Nebraska. We are raising 6 million dollars, we are raising 6 million dollars on the sales tax on food which goes to the general fund to be expended and appropriated through this body. Now that is not a wash. We are trying to raise money on the sales tax on food. The arguments on this floor has been, and they continue to be, that we ought not tax food. That is fair, that is a regressive tax, that is unfair, that is a regressive tax. But what we ought to do instead is raise the credit up to where we don't make a profit on this and then that way provide some relief because this is an easy way to do it. It is too hard to separate groceries at the grocery store and that has been the argument and I say, and if you are going to do that and if you really mean that, then you have to leave it at \$24 because, otherwise, we are making a profit and we all know that. Senator Lamb's proposal to move it to \$20 is to make that profit, to make the six million dollar profit and I don't know if the Governor would veto this bill. He has never said that to me and I don't know how there are other people who have that on authority. In fact, he said he would wait and see. Now maybe at this time, he has made that determination but he hasn't told me that. We ought to hold this off. If we have to come back to \$20, we can hold it off to see if we can eliminate that tax one more time. I oppose Senator Lamb's proposal. It is neither fair nor just nor right, if that makes any difference.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rumery.

SENATOR RUMERY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: You have heard the motion. Are there five seconds? There are. The question is, shall debate now cease? Record your vote. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 24 ayes, 6 nays.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner. No, not on that.

SENATOR HEFNER: I want to call the previous question.

PRESIDENT: All right, here is another call for the previous question. Do I see five seconds? The question is, shall debate now cease? Have you all voted? Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 6 nays.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Lamb, would you close debate, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, it should not be for me to advise some of these people the political realities because they have been here longer than I have, but actually what we are talking about is either \$16 or \$20. I suggest to Senator Simon and some of the other people that are interested in increasing the food tax credit that my amendment will do that. It will do more than the present amendment on the bill. They should be sure that there are thirty votes here to override and that I suggest that the \$20 is a reasonable figure. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The question is the specific amendment for which this bill was returned to Select File. Record your