

pend the rules and pass LB 431, regardless of what else passed today. They need it. I talked to the Revenue Commissioner, Mr. Peters. He is insisting that this is needed. So I hope that you will vote to suspend the rules and pass LB 431.

PRESIDENT: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: I do not support 431 for obvious reasons. I think that the question of breaking faith to the public is not very appropriate here. I think the real issue is whether or not we need to provide \$20. I argued long and hard. We all argued that \$24 would really be a more adequate figure, but we decided to save money. We decided to save money, we decided to save \$6 million by bringing it from \$24, the accurate figure, down to \$20. I feel the same way as many of those senators that wanted to save money and bring it from \$24 to \$20. Only I think we can save some more money. I think we can save substantially more money, and we can bring it down to \$16 and save another \$6 million, making it a total savings, this year, of \$12 million. That is a really wonderful thing for the people. There is another added thing that I'd like to bring up. I think that is a very important part of this discussion. Senator Bereuter is very consistent with his arguments. He talks about the credit system and doing what we can with the credit system. I, personally, don't like the credit system, never have. I don't think we ought to tax food. I think that is the real, nitty gritty issue here, whether or not we ought to tax food; and we do that, we raise money off of taxing food, and that is wrong. It is wrong in my opinion. I hope it is wrong in many other members of this body opinions. Consequently, what I am asking is let's be honest with the people of Nebraska and say "Yes, we are willing to tax food". I would like to, in fact, change this, if I only had the votes to do that, to scratch the \$16 and give them no rebate. Let's just be perfectly frank that we're taxing them on food and not play the old give it here, and take it there trick. Let's be perfectly honest. We're taxing food. It's wrong, it's unfair, it's unjust, it is the worst sort of economic justice there is. That has been our principal and that is our desire, etc. The question is not whether you get a half a loaf or a full loaf, the question is whether you're eventually going to eliminate sales tax on food. The best way to do that is to remind the people that they're paying the sales tax on food, and remind them, make it easier for them to see that, in fact, \$16, \$20, either figure does not compensate them fully. I would hope this body would refuse to pass this bill. I thank you very much.

PRESIDENT: Senator Merz.

SENATOR MERZ: Mr. President, I make a motion we raise the Call.

PRESIDENT: You've heard the motion. Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 17 ayes, 24 nays.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett calls for the previous question. Do I see five seconds? I do. The question is shall debate now cease. Record your vote. Record.

CLERK: 36 ayes, 4 nays.