

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

March 21, 2001      LB 429  
                         LR 41-47

**SENATOR TYSON:** Thank you very much. Any further time I yield to Senator Janssen.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** Effectively, time has expired. Senator Janssen, your light is next.

**SENATOR JANSSEN:** All right. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I have a few more facts here I would like to share with you. It's true that some retailers offer credit and debit charges for their customers, and that these costs are absorbed or passed on to the customer that shop in that store. This is a service that is offered in hopes of people purchasing more items than they normally would. As I explained before, at Christmastime or a holiday that's when you see more people using the credit card machines. If the reimbursement fee does not go through and retailers choose not to take the state equipment and would choose to use their own equipment, which I don't think they will do, then passing it on the people, then we are passing that cost on to the people that are less able to afford it. I have a couple examples that I was able to get a hold of here in Lincoln, the HyVee Store at 70th and Van Dorn, let's use that store, and Russ's supermarket on 17th and Washington in Lincoln. At the HyVee Store, it's a big new store in a new neighborhood. They do less than \$200 in food stamp business a month. The Russ's store at 17th and Washington is in an older neighborhood. They do around \$50,000 in food stamps a month. Now, if there are no reimbursement fees to the retailers, then this retailer will have to pass the cost of the EBT on to their customers through increased prices. We've talked about that before. So the cost of groceries will be higher at 17th and Washington store, Senator Chambers has alluded to this, and those that are least able to afford it will be paying for that program. Essentially, they will get less food for their food stamp dollars. That's why I maintain that the cost of this program should be shared by everyone in the state and reimbursements accomplish that. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**SPEAKER KRISTENSEN:** While the Legislature is in session and capable of transacting business, I propose to sign and do hereby sign LR 41, LR 42, LR 43, LR 44, LR 45, LR 46, and LR 47. Items