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FLOOR DEBATE

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the country. Then, when they were forced into a fallback position, they say, well, give us nine cents, which is still higher than any other amount being received in the country. Now that we have gone through all of this agony, now that there's blood on the floor, much of it mine because I had to fight this thing all of this time, Senator Janssen wants to traipse in here and say, okay, Ernie is right, I'm wrong. But mainly, the representatives of the grocery lobby have said that this is what we probably ought to do. I'm not saying they directed Senator Janssen to do this. But they will agree to this now. But we will have spent all of that time in vain if this bill is bracketed. If the bill is bracketed rather than killed, then I'm going to get my pound of flesh someplace else. I don't have time to waste. You have time to waste. So when you want to keep talking on one of these bad bills, I will waste your time. And I'm taking my time at that point because I'm doing what I think is right. That time that I spent will not have been spent if this bill is bracketed, it will have been wasted. How long were we on this bill? Count it up, the time. And today is the day that we ought to put it where it belongs, that is, in the cemetery of bad ideas, bills that should not have come before us in the first place. We cannot set a precedent this morning of allowing this escape hatch. I have tried every way I knew to keep the body from having to deal with this. Well, pay me now or pay me later. This bill is what we're talking about, but it has to be viewed in a larger context. It has to be viewed in the context of the rest of the session. I'm not going to be put through what I went through on this bill only to have it given...be given a reprieve. You all knew from the beginning that this was a bad bill.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: The more time went on, the more you became aware of how bad it was. Then the nail was really drawn...driven into the lid of the coffin when the Governor echoed what I had been saying on the floor. This is a matter of principle. So whether the amount is six cents, four cents, or a penny, it is a bad principle to put in place. And I don't think we ought to compromise that principle by bracketing this bill. I think we ought to defeat the bracket motion, then kill it, and