

going to use it as a revenue source to generate revenue and to say that there is no more than \$26, then let the Governor of this state tell the people that there is no more money but let me tell you something, my friends, in the general fund a year ago at this time, there was \$61 million in the kitty. Today I have the report there is \$99,230,000. There is \$60 million more money in the general fund today than we need to pay all of our bills, to pay for everything that comes along and we can give back to the people of the State of Nebraska money that they have paid in taxes. We can refund it to them and do what is right with it. Anytime a state will collect something like \$60 million more money than they need from its constituents, the state should look into its taxing matters. We are overtaxing the people. We have overtaxed them last year. We are on the verge of overtaxing them again next year, and for us to say that we are not going to give the people back the money that we have promised them in the refunds on the food tax credit is asinine. I can tell you this that if we don't do this and if we should increase the spending, later on I know that they are going to come up and I am going to support one bill that will put ten million into education, the only increase in spending that I will support this year, but I will say that we should give back to the people the money that they have paid in, and, Senator Newell, in giving this at \$30, you are very, very reasonable. It should be \$40. We have the money in the kitty. There is nobody in the Governor's staff will come to the floor of this Legislature and tell me that the money is not there. Nobody. I will take Mr. Leuenberger and find out what he has to say and any of the other Governor's staff and to prove to me that the figures that come into my office, every day, we have been taking in at the rate of \$200,000 a day more money than we spend, going on consistently every day for the last year, and to say that we are not financially solid and we cannot do this is absolutely wrong. The Governor of this state owes it to the people of this state to tell them where and how much money we have in the general fund, how much money we have obligated, what we should do with it, where we are going to spend it. Ladies and gentlemen, let's make it \$30 and that would be very, very simple, the smallest amount that we could possibly, honestly try to tell the people we are dealing with.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I do support Senator Newell's amendment and I think he and others have given a very good rationale as to why