

that can say with inflation being 14 or 15 percent and looking at when the last increase was in the sales tax on food, the last time we provided for additional credit, there is no way that we can say that we have made any sort of conscientious effort to keep up with the current trend of inflation. We haven't. I would suggest the \$30 figure were too low. If memory serves me correct and I think it does, a couple of years ago we were saying that \$26 was too low. I would suggest that \$30 is too low at this point and certainly by the time that the next time comes around that we vote for an increase for the credit, the \$30 will be substantially too low but that doesn't appear to be the issue today on the floor, and if it is not, then I think we should be open and aboveboard and let everybody understand just exactly what the issue is. The issue is that the majority of the members of this body are too cheap and unwilling to provide the citizens of Nebraska just exactly what is due back to them, and if you want to say it is budgetary constraints, that we cannot afford it, then fine but let's not hide behind, under some particular sort of statistics and say, well, this is really what you are due back because we figured it out because that is a bunch of baloney and we all know it. That is not the real reason. The real reason is that we are afraid the Governor is going to veto the bill, and as some other people have said, if he vetoes it, fine. Then the monkey is on his back but it is not going to be on mine. I want everybody to understand exactly what the real figures are, just exactly what the intent of this body is, and if the intent of this body is to support the Governor and is to keep the budget in line, then that is fine. I would suggest in closing that we do have other alternatives. I have discussed this with Senator Newell and, Senator Newell, I don't know if this is the time and the place but I am going to toss it out now anyway. I introduced a bill, LB 144, with Senator Labeledz and also Senator Pirsch and this is perhaps the biggest ripoff in the whole state and this is one which is unfortunate because most of the taxpayers don't realize it. Right now as consumers we pay 3% taxes on utilities and you talk about sales tax on food being a ripoff, this is a bigger one because we don't get any credit back whatsoever, not one dime, yet businesses don't pay a cent, businesses don't pay 1% tax, not one, not two, not three. They pay zero. We pay three percent as consumers. Why is that? Ask some of the people around here about twelve years ago. The point is that we do pay that three percent. Now the bill has been in Senator Carsten's committee for over a year and I have grimaced and made some other remarks at the fact that bill just sits in committee and I am really