

January 23, 1980

LB 44

very disappointed because I think that something could be done. Let me toss out one other alternative. We have suggested that that tax be eliminated but we were told, no, Senator Simon, you can't do that. It is going to cost the state too much money. We have suggested, well, Senator Carsten, members of the Revenue Committee, why don't you have the 3% tax for everybody? That seems only fair. If as a consumer I pay 3%, why can't business? Well, for some reason, that doesn't seem to fly. So that is not being looked at as an alternative either. The third alternative was let's give everybody a break. Let's give the customers a break. As consumers, let's just charge us 1½% and let's charge business 1½% and that way at least everybody gets some sort of a break but for some reason that doesn't seem to fly. So here is the fourth alternative, and maybe this is one that could fly because it seems to me that 144 has enough merit that the bill should be put on the floor. What I am suggesting is this, taking the money from that bill....

PRESIDENT: Point of order, state your point, Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: I think Senator Simon is out of order. I don't think we are discussing 144. We are discussing an amendment to the food tax bill.

SENATOR SIMON: Excuse me, Mr. President, what I am suggesting is that the money, if 144 were put to the floor, that that revenue, the major concern seems to be that LB 44 is going to cost the state too much money, what I am suggesting, and I can understand why Senator Carsten's feathers are a bit ruffled because I have been a bit critical of where that bill is sitting in his committee, what I am suggesting, Mr. President, is this.

PRESIDENT: You have got one minute, Senator Simon, so (interruption).

SENATOR SIMON: What I am suggesting is this, that LB 144 could be put on the floor, that we could take that revenue, and rather than give it back to the people in the form of a tax credit, that you could charge either a 1½% for business or 3% and use that additional revenue to provide for what the fair amount is as a sales tax on food, a sales tax credit on food. So, Senator Carsten, the motion does or the comment does have considerable amount of merit. I am merely saying that these two taxes are the most unfair taxes around and that this would provide the revenue for taking care of the problems which so many of us have expressed