

January 23, 1980

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credit and \$7 is a minimal amount. \$7 is something that is absolutely, it is a rather disgrace to say to the people of this state, we have \$60 million in the kitty that is too much. It is more than we need. It is overcollected and we are going to give you back a dollar more than we did last year, a dollar more. That is a million and a half dollars credit. Why don't we come and be honest with the people of this state and say we have collected this much money. The sales tax is an honorable way to give it back to the people. It doesn't take consideration of their wealth, there statures in life or anything else. It simply says that I am entitled to \$27 credit on the income tax, the sales tax, the property tax that I have paid. I feel that we must do this for the people. Surely we have no higher priority than to give back the money that has been paid especially on food. I can tell you this, and I don't know what your priorities are. I don't know where your loyalty stands, but the people of this state at a time coming up now when they are going to be facing some of the highest priced fuel bills, food bills, heat bills, electric bills in the history of our state, and we are saying to the people that we have collected from you last year almost \$70 million more than we need. We are saying to those people, you don't deserve any of this back. We are going to increase spending someplace else. If the people of this state come through and say there is a limit on how much money you can spend on the state level, don't blame Orval, don't blame the people who've been voting for a food tax credit. Blame yourself because you are the ones that are to blame. Come with this \$7 right now. If the Governor wants to cut it, let him veto it and send it back to us and we will see what we can do.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Lamb.

SENATOR LAMB: The question.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lamb calls for the question. Do I see five hands? I do. The question is, shall debate cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted on ceasing debate? Record the vote.

CLERK: 27 ayes, 6 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Marsh, any closing.

SENATOR MARSH: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I urge your acceptance of this compromise move to make the amount returned to our constituents \$27.

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