

February 7, 1980

LB 44

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, although there have been projections by various individuals and groups that would indicate an amount from \$35.00 to \$40.00 might be the legitimate amount that should be returned to citizens as a refund on the taxes paid on food, I am trying to strike an accord with some of you and raise this amount to \$32.00. When some people became aware of the nature of my amendment, they told me of the amount that this bill, this amendment would take from the general fund but that is not even a consideration when we deal with this issue. The money is there. It was collected as a tax on food and when that tax was imposed a promise was made to the public that the amount paid on food would be returned by means of this refund. Now I went through the thing with you earlier of how the Governor tricked you into saying \$26.00 was all that could be returned. Then under pressure, and that is the only thing that changed his mind, he eased up to \$28.00 but that still is not justice. That is a small step in the right direction but it is not justice. I want the record to carry forever the position that I had on this bill so my argument will be presented by means of this little rhyme for the record. This is the Governor talking to the Senators. "I thought 'twas true what I told you, regarding revenue. I did not know which way to go--too high; too low? Misleading projection--I need protection from defection. (NEVER TRY TO FATHOM WHY POLITICIANS LIE.) In a fix with twenty-six; fiscal oil slicks! O, the heat is never sweet, that goes with defeat. My heart is quaky, both legs shaky. Lord! do I feel flaky! Public disclosure, embarrassing exposure; uncomfortable enclosure. I hesitate to face grim Fate....Well--uh--twenty-eight." Then the Senators who trailed after the Governor give their lament. "Out on a limb we went for him; cut off at the stem. "Thone! Thone! Thone!" Betrayed ones groan in sad monotone. Down in the dumps, backs formed in humps; "He made us CHUMPS!" We trusted him!! Chambers dusted him! The Media busted him!" This is my argument. "Like sheep all blind, (interruption)....

SENATOR MARSH: We read this. It has been printed and put on our desks. Do we have to listen again?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: You haven't listened to it, Senator Marsh. I am giving my presentation, and if you don't like it, then you don't have to stay here but I have received writings and the person would then be allowed to give his or her presentation on the floor and that is what I intend to do.

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