

March 27, 1981

LB 12

for this increase so I hope that nobody tries to amend the bill or anything so we can get it advanced. If you want to do something to it, do it on Select File and not on General File. I move that the bill be advanced to E & R initial.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator Maresh is waving no at me so I probably won't take much time. I will just take a second. Senator Maresh, what is the fiscal impact of this bill?

SENATOR MARESH: About four and a half million dollars. It is one and a half million dollars per dollar increase.

SENATOR CULLAN: Okay, thank you, Senator Maresh. That is all I wanted to know. I don't like the whole rebate system anyway. I think we ought to either go with Senator Newell and eliminate the tax on food or just tax food so I am going to vote against the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, here we are again on consent calendar being lulled to sleep and this bill needs a little bit more discussion than fifteen minutes, I think, and Senator Maresh pleads with us not to touch it until it gets to Select File. I just can't help but want to amend this bill even though I respect Senator Maresh's request. I would like to hear from the chairman of the Appropriations Committee to what effect this bill has and whether or not it is reasonable and if we really need to advance it to \$31 dollars because every time we do this I don't know if we help people or not. It gets back to the issue that many of us have tried to resolve for a number of years. That is, to repeal a tax on food, period rather than for us to annually try to return a rebate to the people of this state. I would like to see us use this bill just to plain repeal it and not wrestle with what people are entitled to coming back to them because of taxes on food. And I know very well what has happened is the state has learned to live on some of the profit. Several cities are living on some of the profit and every time we talk about repeal of this tax on food immediately we send those people into a state of tremor because they are going to lose considerable revenue. I think it is high time the people of this state understand what is happening. We actually make money on tax on food in this state. We do not return it back. It never gets back. It never will, not all of it. So here we are, we are saying, okay now, people, we are returning \$31 to the \$28, so now we are returning it to you, that tax you pay on your food and today in the conditions that some of the