

May 14, 1981

LB 12

Senator Maresh to trick us into going for a dollar to insult the public, then next year when the time comes to add the additional dollar, he will tell Senator Maresh or whoever else is carrying the bill, well we don't have enough in the treasury so we will veto that. What does he mean the. is not enough in the treasury? That money that was raised on tax on food is blood money in the first place. That money has already been set aside, Senator Maresh, in trust for the people of this state. There is no way that there cannot be enough to return to the people the amount they paid in taxes on food. It is there. It is theirs and we should not deny them of this money. There is no way that we morally can do such a reprehensible thing. Around the turn of the century a wheeling-dealing north-eastern politician named Marc Hannah was going to punish a guy who voted the wrong way during an election and he was going to go all the way to North Dakota to do so, and a person that he was grooming for president that he was pulling around on a leash said, Marc Hannah, do not do this thing, you will be slaughtered....

SPEAKER MARVEL: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...if you go out there. And Marc Hannah gave the resounding reply, Senator Maresh, although he was a cutthroat politician, "God hates a coward".

SPEAKER MARVEL: Thirty seconds.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And he went. Now certainly our conduct can at least reach the standard of that set by a cutthroat, wheeling-dealing, scheming politician like Marcus Alonzo Hannah. I am totally opposed to this motion and I hope it will be defeated as it ought to be.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Wiitala.

SENATOR WIITALA: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I stand before you dismayed not only over my proposed amendment to LB 3 which was an attempt to address the inequities of placing a tax on a necessity of life...I feel like holding a requiem for two bills today, LB 48, which would have eliminated the sales tax on food, and LB 61, which would eliminate the sales tax on utilities. Again, people on fixed incomes and lowered incomes are going to be asked again to subsidize the state when it comes to the sales tax. In the Omaha area it's especially true, 4 1/2 percent on sales tax on food, 4 1/2 sales tax on utilities. Take a look at what we have been through the last three to four or five years with rising costs of living approaching 16 percent. Whatever