

May 14, 1981

LB 12

simply that those who take credit for the rain then must also take credit for the drouth. I am stating this because the State Board of Equalization last November met and said this state's financial condition was very healthy and as a result they could cut the income corporate tax by 1 percentage point. The same individuals then take all the credit because of the return of tax dollars to the citizens of the State of Nebraska. Now as you look at our budget and we have been hearing this moaning and groaning all session about how short we are of dollars, we then are going to take it from the people who I think are being unfairly taxed in terms of buying food. And as Senator Wiitala stated very well, with the increased costs of food automatically the buying power of the people is being diminished as well because of the tax which cannot morally be defended. Senator Maresh brought this bill to us in good faith not too many days ago, and suddenly he must have been asked by the Governor to bring it back for surgery and to cut the amount from \$31 back to \$29. As far as I am concerned, rather than do this we might as well leave it where it is and be honest with the public rather than trying to deceive them. It is also interesting to note, you look at Senator Maresh's amendment in 1982 it goes up a couple more dollars. I don't know where we are going to get the money in 1982 if we don't have it now. I ask you only to look too at other states, Michigan, Minnesota, Iowa, where they thought they had a bundle of money in surplus and they cut their revenues back severely and today those states are facing almost impossible problems financially in terms of services. What I am saying to you today is, we ought to let LB 12 go as is, and the Governor in his infinite wisdom if he sees fit to veto it, so be it, not us because we represent the people just like he does, possibly in a little different fashion with not all the visibility, we don't all get press conferences, we have to find our platforms in various ways before very few people. As an individual, ever since I have been in politics I have promised and committed myself to people in my district who are probably a little wealthier than other districts that we should repeal the sales tax, and they agree. But you are never going to do it because too many people make money from it contrary to what the public understands. The state makes money from it. The cities make money from it. We never get the dollar back to the people and I don't care how you try to deceive them. And I would hope that Senator Maresh will withdraw his amendment. Let the Governor veto it if he so desires. Then let us override it because we know that what we are returning to the people today in terms of that rebate is not close to what they spent on their tax on food particularly in inflationary times and costs. I object strenuously to this action,