

May 27, 1981

LB 12

PRESIDENT: Time.

SENATOR NEWELL: \$32 is more like what the Governor's Department of Revenue figures would provide. So when he uses these figures, it is, basically, a sleight of hand. It is at best intellectual dishonesty and thank you for your extra fifteen seconds.

PRESIDENT: Okay. The Chair recognizes Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I would urge the body to override this veto. I think the choices are quite simple. We passed LB 3 and given a substantial amount of money in the same direction to the business interest of the state and here we are trying to get it back, taking \$3 from every man, woman and child across the state, and especially where this hurts are the poor people, the elderly, those that really can't afford it. That \$3 cuts that. To tip that \$3 in to pay for LB 3 to bail out industry is, I think, really inexcusable for this body. When it comes to the projections from the Revenue Department, the \$3 is approximately inflation over last year and for several years our projections have been that we have been attempting to cover to really just rebate the actual take from the sales tax on food. Now all of a sudden we have one set of figures that disputes this dramatically pop up that ends up for an excuse for a veto on this \$3. The opposition to abolishing the sales tax on food has primarily been centered on two positions, one, that it would be too expensive, which has been the main one, and the other, the involvement of the city sales tax and the loss of revenues to the cities. But I think the overwhelming reason that we did not abolish the sales tax on food which would have saved another million dollars on the three percent on this \$30 million, would have saved a million dollars in collecting the sales tax and rebating. There is a whole million to deal with right there. But it would have been too expensive a route to have abolished the sales tax on food. Then when we get up to Final Reading right at the end of the session, suddenly we are given figures that have some partial factual basis but do not include the vending machines, do not include cafe meals and the other assortments and are really unrealistic when you look at them as far as what would be a true representative figure. I think the issue is really simple. Are we going to take and rob from the sales tax on food to pay for these other gifts we are giving in legislation this year where the primary benefactors are generally the wealthier people? We have a salary bill in to raise the judge's salaries. We are raising the University's salaries and this Legislature