

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I wholeheartedly support the override of LB 12 and Senator Cope is right. We have had statistics all over the place but I do want to emphasize that the figures do not include the sales tax that you and I pay in restaurants, in drive-ins, when we take our families to the drive-in, or from the vending machines. Now I understand that could mean about thirty or forty percent of the sales tax revenue that is collected on food and both the blue collar and the white collar workers, many of us, purchase our lunches during the noon hour. Lot of us also purchase our breakfasts. Not only that but there is numerous times when we will take the family out to the drive-in or to the restaurant, and if that is amounting to thirty or forty percent of the sales tax paid on food, then I certainly believe that the statistic that we received from the Department of Revenue are very wrong and I urge the members of this body to vote for the override and I don't think the amount that we have in there is enough compared to the amount of food that is purchased by any family in the State of Nebraska. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Pirsch and then Senator Wesely.

SENATOR PIRSCH: I am one of those who will not vote to override the Governor's veto on LB 12. I have consistently in the past supported the abolishment of the food sales tax and I continue to do so and I think we are just placating by raising the amount. We are putting off, we are postponing, we are making excuses for charging a sales tax on food. My constituents have not clamored for a raise in this payback and it doesn't make sense to me to take in more money to give back more of a collection fee and send back to the people that we took it from and I think you're just postponing the time when we have to deal with this and I would hope that our Revenue Committee in their extensive studies this interim would make that decision that now is the time to eliminate the sales tax on food. We argue about whether it should be from the restaurants. We argue about whether it should include both restaurants and stores. I think it should be eliminated entirely and this is just going to delay that decision. In looking at the handout that Senator Beutler passed around, he divided the population into the \$50 million figure which equated to a credit of about \$32 but he did not go down and take off the allowance for nonfood items which is a great deal of your supermarket expense, the \$7 million. When you do that, it turns out that it is only \$27.58 credit that is paid on the food amount. If you take off the three percent discount to