

state and yet we have been unwilling, unsympathetic to thousands of Nebraskans who need this kind of relief from their taxes, from their tax bills on food, we have been unwilling to offer this legislation to the people. I am offering this proposal in the hopes that this Legislature would with their wisdom send this to the people and allow them to vote on it. If the people of the state choose not to eliminate the sales tax on food, then I will consider the issue dead. I will consider the people of this state as having spoken on this very important issue. But to have the committee kill this proposal before it ever had a chance to be discussed on this floor, before the people had an opportunity to vote on this very important issue, is wrong and unjust. Frankly, the issue here is a very simple issue. The cities of Lincoln and Omaha did not oppose the bill. The state, the Governor's office and the Revenue Department say there will be no fiscal impact. I think that the people of this state deserve an opportunity to decide this issue once and for all, and that opportunity has been denied them by the committee. For that reason and for that reason alone, I urge this Legislature to bring this bill to the floor for its full consideration and passage.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Labeledz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Mr. Chairman, I have a problem. The Vice Chairman and myself both voted to advance the bill. There were others that passed. I would ask any member of the committee now and I saw Senator Howard Peterson is not in his chair, if there would be anybody that would defend their vote because they passed. I can't stand up here and say that I am opposing the motion to advance the bill to the floor.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Is there anyone who wants to speak against the motion?

SENATOR LABEDZ: (Mike not activitated)...from the committee wants to speak against the motion, could the Chair ask anyone whether they would like to oppose the motion?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Chambers, do you want to represent the other side?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Yes. Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this is a bill designed to offer to the public a constitutional amendment so that they can vote on whether there should be a sales tax based, on my understanding, on food or not. Now if such a bill were to be