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average family is reimbursed for the amount of tax that they have paid on food. Now you will notice, and somebody else mentioned this, most of the problems are in Omaha evidently. It's the Omaha senators that are for it, and I can see they have a problem and they caused that problem themselves thanks to the case that the Legislature helped them with the problem, I am sorry to say. And that is too bad. But the rest of us it isn't that big a problem because people are reimbursed and no matter what Senator Johnson says the state has to come out ahead because the tourists that come through, the people that live on the border and come in and shop, that is revenue extra, above what is reimbursed to our own people. This is no time to be taking taxes off. For heaven's sakes, we are working hard to add taxes in various places where they are to individuals for fees and licenses and different methods of collection. So please think about this especially outstate Nebraskans let's don't get caught up in this.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President, this is one of the most interesting discussions we have had this session and it is too bad we are on the last four days. But I could have predicted this a number of years ago when we...especially when Omaha fought so hard and so diligently to get that extra half cent sales tax. My goodness, they were going to go wash right down the Missouri River if they didn't get it, and I said at that time that if the rest of Nebraska or state government wanted to raise the sales tax across the State of Nebraska that they would get flak from the Omaha delegation. How does that strike you this morning? I think we have had nearly every one of the Omaha delegation up here pleading with us, please don't raise that sales tax a half percent, it is just going to kill us. Well the half cent that you pleaded for probably is what killed you. The sales tax in the beginning was meant for state government, and, of course, my philosophy there is similar to Senator Chambers, believe it or not. I think we made an awfully big mistake by allowing cities to add to their sales tax. Senator Schmit is not here this morning but he has worked on a bill for a number of years that would eliminate the sales tax on food and would put the same sales tax on across the State of Nebraska which I think is the proper way to handle this issue. But I am just bleeding all over the place when I hear the pleas that, oh my goodness, we can't do this, they are using sales tax on food as a whipping boy but there are a lot of other things that are sold across the state borders that perhaps you can get a better deal on besides food. So don't use food just for the whipping boy.

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