

after this because I may seriously consider it and show what can be done with enough property to be used for a farm. Senator Hefner just held up a fistful of money. Senator Hefner has so much money, even when it is paper, that he doesn't count it. He weighs it, Senator Hillman, he weighs his paper money. But, anyway, we are talking today about an amendment that hurts the people who don't have money to weigh. We are talking about the very poor people for whom a 7 percent sales tax is totally unreasonable and unfair. With all of the comments that I have made that could have been taken in a lighthearted vein and were intended to be so, with a very serious underlying purpose, I doubt that there is anybody in here who would want to see a 7 percent sales tax levied on the poor. So we are in a set of circumstances, as a Legislature, where money is needed and the argument is made constantly that the money is not there. So you have to decide from whence you will draw that money. And I say it should not be drawn from the pockets of the poor. Sometimes a person can have so little that people with a great amount will say, well, why don't you go on and take that, too. What difference does it make. He or she is starving anyway. They will just check out quicker. I don't feel that way. I think that those of us in this Legislature who, through the power of our vote and our ability to establish policy, when we come to a situation where something, which would not even rise to the level of compassion,...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...can be shown, we ought to show it. It is not...it should not take compassion to not place an additional burden on those who are already overburdened. I hear some people, such as Senator Crosby, who is very sympathetic and compassionate, making pleas for business. Business persons are not as snowed under as these poor people. Even if they lost their business, they have not lost the ability to purchase food and other essentials. As Senator Crosby talked about cutting into their profit margin, not even them losing their businesses, at least they have got something. We are talking about people who even before this unconscionable tax may not have enough to survive. So it is my fervent hope that enough of us will vote to reconsider Senator Schellpeper's amendment. And, Senator Schellpeper, we might can change that name to "Honeycup". Pepper we know has a bite to it. We know that you put pepper in something that you don't want to taste good. People are not responsible for the name that they have, but they don't have to