

Senator Hall...

SPEAKER BAACK: One minute.

SENATOR WILL: ...indicated about the need to make sure that we have a measure that's moving, that addresses the problems that we have, I would urge your opposition to the Hefner amendment.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Will. The next speaker is Senator Chizek.

SENATOR CHIZEK: I rise to oppose Senator Hefner's amendment. I think about 80 percent of it goes back to where we've been. We've traveled this path before and it's not been a very successful path and it was probably something that was very distasteful and unpleasant to the people in this state. I think it's interesting even if you want to give a credit back on food, it borders on being ludicrous that we'll tax the bread and the baby food that you put in somebody's mouth but you don't want to tax energy. That just simply amazes me. But then that's...that's a part of what we have been dealing with the last two days. I oppose this amendment vehemently.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Chizek. Senator Schmit, on the Hefner amendment.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I also rise in opposition to the Hefner amendment. As it has been said, we've been that way before. Most of all, I do not believe you ought to tax food, an item that is necessary for existence. I think it's a very, very poor precedent. While I have the floor, I want to say also that I really want to congratulate my urban friends because they sort of snickered a bunch of people and they're pretty good at it. And, for my rural friends who voted for the reconsideration motion, I want to see how you explain your vote back home because that's going to be a real good exercise in eloquence and rhetoric and I may want to copy some of that rhetoric. The plain facts are we have talked about whether or not we ought to do this or ought to do that, had ought not to adopt this kind of amendment without a hearing. We are here today discussing a bill, the Governor's bill, that had a semblance of about an hour or maybe an hour and a quarter of debate before a hearing, a bill which impacts upon the State of Nebraska to the tune of tens of millions of dollars. Most farmers are in the field planting corn. Most of them don't even