

rate of inflation. It did not keep up with the rate of inflation. So every time finances were tight we would go to the credit and say, no, we're not going to increase it this year like we should in order to keep the tax at the same level of regressivity. So, consequently, over time what could have been a fairly fair provision became more and more regressive and sure enough it will happen again. It's just the way we operate. It's just the way we deal. You can bet that it's going to happen again and our tax system will become more regressive. Forty-one dollars, \$3,300 a year for food for a family of four is not all that high right now, probably doesn't cover what the average family of four pays. I don't...I would be interested to hear what Senator Hefner had to say on that, or maybe I missed it. But I don't think it does cover it. And certainly, as time goes on, we will not keep the credit at the level that it should be kept in order to cover those food costs. I can assure you of that and for that reason, that's why the credit system is not appropriate and I hope we will not consider this amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Beutler. Senator Schimek, you're next.

SENATOR SCHIMEK: Yes, Mr. President, I would like...and members of the body, I would like to call the question.

SPEAKER BAACK: Do I see five hands? I do. We will now vote on ceasing debate. All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote no. We are voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER BAACK: Debate has ceased. Senator Hefner, do you wish to close?

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, Senator Hall said he wanted to expedite this bill. Well, this bill, I feel, is probably one of the most important bills that we have before this Legislature and still he's asking everybody to withdraw their amendments. So I don't hardly think that's quite fair because I don't know whether this is the right way to go but we need to toss a lot of different things out here and then sit around the table and try to figure out a way that we can come up with \$90 million. Somebody mentioned that tax on food