

PRESIDENT: Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I would like to go on record of supporting Senator Chamber's amendment. I'll speak for the trucking industry. These over the road trucks are engineered and geared so that they have a straight through drive at 62 and 63 miles an hour. When we say we're saving fuel, I don't believe that we are in these large trucks. The interstates are engineered up to 75 miles an hour and I don't believe that we are saving too many lives by observing the 55 miles an hour speed limit. I, too, am against having a 65 mile an hour limit on the regular highways, but I believe on the interstate we can strongly say that we do not save too many lives by driving 55 miles an hour. Therefore, I strongly believe that we should adopt this amendment.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter. Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature. A few minutes ago we heard Senator Lewis say that slowing down on Nebraska's interstate system is not going to solve the world's energy problems and he's right. But it will do a little bit and it will show the world or show people of the state that Nebraska is concerned about the energy problem and that we're going to do our part however insignificant our part may be. If I were just looking at this issue irrespective of lives and energy, I would say let's increase the speed limit. Because I don't like the federal government intervening in state affairs by telling us what our speed limit is going to be. Perhaps we should force the issue by letting them know that we are going to set the speed limits in this state. But I cannot support a 65 mile an hour speed limit. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Are there any lights on? Then I'm going to speak. This is not to close. My light has been on. Senator Marsh has spoken since I've spoken, so I'm not being placed in front of her. I just want to say something very brief. When, this is the first time I've heard people on this floor be concerned about the OPEC nations and yet with Senator Warner's shaking with indignation, he did not mention the split in the OPEC nations right now. Sheik Yamani, I believe, represents Saudi Arabia and they're opposed to the raise in prices that the rest of the OPEC nations want. But I don't think it's for the Legislature to discuss the unfavorable balance of trade payments in light of this proposed 10 mile increase in the speed limit in Nebraska. I am concerned that Senator Warner and Senator Cullan and others who've talked glowingly about saving energy have not insisted that the temperature in every state building be turned down to the level that the President said it ought to be turned down to. Senator Warner can almost step out of his door and throw a rock to Lincoln where he has to come every day. Senator Marsh can probably step out of her door and walk to where she comes to work every day. But those who travel some distances on the highway understand the realities of the situation and they have favored this measure. I think it is valid and justified and I think that it ought to be done. I say again for those who are concerned about the preservation of energy in total disregard to what happens to this amendment. You ought to tell Lincoln to turn off all those lights that run up that street to the capitol. They're totally unnecessary. Turn off all those lights at rest stops along the highway or some