

convinced, apparently, that there is a shortage of energy. That this shortage of energy is going to continue for a long period of time. It seems inconceivable to myself and other persons in this body that we would continually talk about very rapidly increased prices of petroleum fuels and that we would never seriously take into consideration the development of that source of energy which we have right here at our front doorstep and that source which can be produced without deteriorating the value of the food from which it is produced. We all face in Nebraska and in the midwest with surpluses of grain, very badly deflated and depressed prices. I believe that this measure adopted by the federal government could have a significant impact and could encourage private enterprise to attempt to construct and operate grain alcohol plants and that the production of those plants could be used to significantly stretch the available sources of petroleum. Mr. President, I move for the adoption of the resolution and ask that the copy be sent to the members of Congress and also to the federal energy czar.

PRESIDENT: The question is the adoption of LR 46. Record your vote. Have you all voted? Record Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: 33 ayes, 0 nays on motion to adopt.

PRESIDENT: LR 46 is adopted. We go now to LR 48. Senator Merz does not want to take up 48 at this time. We go to LR 50, Senator Schmit.

CLERK: Read LR 50.

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature. All of us are aware of the very serious impact that the State Welfare Program has upon the fiscal responsibilities of all citizens of the state of Nebraska. We recognize the impact that it has upon the revenues that are raised by the sales and income taxes. We also recognize the responsibility as this state to its unfortunate individuals who need assistance. This Legislature has acted responsibly time after time after time to provide necessary funds for those individuals who are on welfare. This Legislature has from time to time suffered some criticism because we have in fact been considered overly generous in the area of welfare. I believe the facts are evident that no citizen of the state of Nebraska wants an unfortunate person to do without food, clothing, or shelter, if that person is unable to provide those necessities of life through their own efforts. What does concern most of the citizens of this state of Nebraska and of this Legislature, I am convinced that the needy persons are maintained in dignity but that those individuals who do not have need of public help and help and assistance are not provided with it. It came as a surprise to myself and to many other persons then when we saw in the state's largest newspaper a half-page notice of a public hearing and I hold it up here for your observation, a half-page notice of a public hearing which announces all the various benefits that are available to citizens of the state of Nebraska simply by applying at the State Welfare office. I happen to believe that if an individual is needy, that we have county welfare directors that are capable of determining who those individuals are and that those welfare directors are interested sincerely in the individual and that they will take those steps necessary to be sure that those persons are provided with the necessary means