

solar energy systems is going to be a very large amount of money anyway. I don't think that we're creating any sort of major shift in tax burden with this amendment. I can understand the principle Senator Newell is espousing. I've supported him in the past on major exemptions, but I don't think really we're talking about that much property tax. What we are talking about is this Legislature putting before the people a proposition saying, let's look at alternative sources of energy. Let's move ahead. It's a recognition by us that the energy crisis is serious enough that a constitutional amendment should be presented. For this reason I support Senator Mills and the Constitutional Revision Committee.

PRESIDENT: The Chair will recognize Senator Keyes. The Chair should also advise the body that I have appeared before Committees and stated in public, my position on this type of legislation. If any member feels that it is improper for me to be sitting here, I would be glad to vacate the Chair. Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Mr. Speaker, I'd like to ask Senator Kremer a question. Senator Kremer, you probably wonder how you get into this argument, but three years ago and four years ago, I opposed you when you were successful in taking the tax off of equipment that was used to air and water, that was used...what did we call that at that time? Senator Kremer, do you remember the bill that you took all the air pollution equipment off of the tax rolls and you came along the next year and were successful in taking all water pollution equipment to take care of that off the tax rolls. Now you were successful in taking this property off the tax rolls and not replacing it. Why do we need a constitutional amendment to take solar energy off of the tax rolls?

SENATOR KREMER: You're asking me a question?

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, what's the difference between solar energy and electrical energy that cleans up the air or electrical energy or energy that is used or power that is used to clean up the soil, clean up the rivers, etc. What is the difference?

SENATOR KREMER: Well the only answer I can give would be, I suppose those particular bills do not spell out this area that we're concerned about now and we're addressing ourselves only to the pollution of water and air.

SENATOR KEYES: Well at that time we were taking probably millions of dollars of equipment off the tax rolls without a constitutional amendment that was used to improve the ground or improve the air, the quality of air, but now we're coming along and saying that on energy we have to have a constitutional amendment. It seems to me like there would be no way that we need a constitutional amendment. We could write it off right down the line.

SENATOR KREMER: Well, Senator Keyes, first of all, I'm supporting this bill, but they are somewhat different in concept to the bills that we passed several years ago. We were forcing on the people of Nebraska in various ways, the control of pollution of our water and our air and if we were doing that, I felt at that time that we had a responsibility in giving them some kind of an encouragement because we were forcing the expenditures of vast amounts of money upon industry and others that were responsible, I suppose they were