

March 31, 1980

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because we know the bonds can't be issued unless they are saleable and secure and sound. They will bring in one hundred percent free enterprise, if you want to use the word, private money, not a penny of government money, that then goes into the Nebraska economy that provides employment, that provides sale of materials for improving homes, and that ultimately then pays taxes in the form of sales and income taxes. To those of you who say, well, we don't want the government involved in this, this is just a financing scheme, I would submit to you that if you want to watch the outflow of capital out of this state in recent years particularly with the high interest rates, this may be the only method, in fact I would guess it will be the only method that we will get the home improvement loans and energy financing loans into the state. And again it is not one penny of government money. To those who are raising the question of the bill in Congress, the Ullman bill, I would tell you that all indications at this time are that it may be our type of fund which is the only one that can go through the hoops and loops and qualify under the Ullman bill. In fact the indications are very clear that this could be the only one. The second concept is to allow public owned electric utilities the option, not mandatory but the option and ability, if they desire, to make energy conservation loans to their customers. Now you have information on this, abundant information. I won't go into it further than to say it is an option should they choose to exercise it. Other utilities private and public throughout the United States are utilizing it. The third concept is actually what was proposed in Governor Thone's bill having to do with sales tax refund on alternate energy sources. This bill was killed in committee. We have taken it word for word and implemented it into this bill. Section 4, provide constitutionally valid federally mandated thermal and lighting efficiency standards for all construction in the future in this state, a system that basically is as nonbureaucratic as possible, but that is going to get the situation so that in the future construction will be designed in such a way as to save energy. That is a major, major part of the bill. I think it is important we get something done this year. Section 5, emergency weatherization fund. This is the most controversial part of the bill. Excuse me. In a few moments if this amendment is adopted, and this will shock about 48 others in the room, I will be moving to strike this portion of the bill. I repeat, I will be moving to strike the weatherization fund. Why? Because within the last hour and a half constant work with the Energy Office and with others involved have arrived at an alternate solution that is probably as effective

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