

March 31, 1980

LB 954

eighty billion dollars worth of foreign oil, the ever increasing price of that imported energy. The fact is that Nebraska imports about ninety-six percent of our energy. We are very dependent on outside energy resources and it is time that the state did something about that vulnerable position that we are in. We export so many millions of dollars every day and every week and every month from this state outside to other states and outside of this country that I can't believe that it is not very clear in everyone's mind the economic self-interest of this sort of legislation. We have done a survey of Nebraska's state energy programs to compare to other states and their energy programs and we found that we are at the bottom, right down at the bottom, about 48th. We have very little to offer in terms of state energy programs. We have almost nothing of value or significance that can really get to the nub of the energy problem in this state and along comes now for the first time in LB 954 the first real attempt in the State of Nebraska to deal with our energy problem. This legislation, as I said, is probably the best that we can do this session and this year and it is unfortunate that we can't do more. My belief is that for the long process that we have gone through in this bill that has been carefully thought out and carefully reviewed and carefully examined and despite some of the misgivings some people may have concerning this legislation, it has been thoroughly reviewed and I think should be passed with the utmost support of all members of this Legislature. I think we should keep in mind the fact that we have gone through LR 25 and LR 98. We have held hearings through the summer. We have seen research developed that is very, very new to this Legislature concerning the energy crisis. We have gotten the facts and we have gotten the information and we have...(Interruption)

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up, Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: ...that deals with the fundamental problems and provides a fundamental solution that is in the best interest of this state so I support the amendments and I urge your support.

SENATOR CLARK: Amendments on the desk.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Haberman had amendments, five different amendments to this particular request number and I understand he wishes to withdraw those.