

March 27, 1979

LB 460

inspired, that has placed these people in this position and we have done it with just such programs as this and many others. We are exempting the elderly from home-
stead. Who makes up that difference? At the committee hearing I suggested to Senator Simon that this was a water bed bill. When you push down over here it has to come up over here and Senator Simon is totally familiar with water beds but the fact of the matter is as Senator Kahle pointed out, that when we give to someone without reducing the overall cost, someone else must pay more and for the life of me, I don't see why people continue to wait for additional exemptions to rob them blind. Why should the middle income man who is about the only fellow left working anymore, why must he absorb all of these various exemptions, reductions, lifeline rates and the whole bit? He who is probably the least capable because he is presently involved with a mortgage on his own home, probably raising children, hoping to have enough money left to send them to college unless of course we ultimately make college an absolute boondoggle and there is no cost whatsoever to attend, in which case that same fellow is going to have his taxes raised again. But let's stop pretending that we can cure somebody's ills without it being at the expense of someone else and let's have a little compassion for that someone else who is already shouldering far more than his share of the burden. I would be opposed to this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler, then Senator Wesely, and then a kill motion. Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Well I guess I am surprised at some of the people who say that they think that we should not do this, who say that electric rates should be based on the actual cost because they are the people who have enjoyed perhaps one of the biggest subsidies in electricity in terms of providing service to the rural customer. Now what we are saying is we have cost to service. Well we really don't have cost to service in Nebraska because there is a concept called postage stamp rate or analysis, that says that the distance that the lines have to go to provide electricity, that cost is shared equally by everybody. Now this sort of concept works against city dwellers and very definitely works to the advantage of the farms because in this country we found that it was not economically feasible to run electric lines out to farms to serve one farmer, to put ten, twenty, thirty miles of line for one individual. The farmer couldn't afford to pay that so we decided that that should be shared collectively, that