

problem that I personally have wrestled with and that is the comment on energy. Senator Burrows says that he really doesn't care...he really doesn't care for the bill in any event because we are going through an energy crisis in this country, and for us to now promote tourism in the face of that energy crisis is almost the height of hypocrisy. To a certain extent those remarks are attractive remarks and I think those are the kind of remarks with which people might agree. On the other hand, if one looks closely at what 499 addresses and what 499 really deals with, we are talking to a large extent about conventions and conventions are going to occur irrespective of the energy crisis. Furthermore, you and I have to realize that probably the greatest governor on our use of energy will be the cost of gasoline. Gasoline now is \$1.16 a gallon for regular, a \$1.22 a gallon for unleaded and going up, and it doesn't make any difference the kind of promotional programs that this state or any other state has for the tourist business. Gasoline prices will be the final determiner. It seems to me in the end that what we truly ought to take into consideration are the taxes that we impose on gasoline or the deregulation of gasoline and the like. Those will be the true energy conservation measures, not whether or not we decide to oppose or to endorse the lodging tax which in turn will promote to some degree tourism in this state. I would wholeheartedly endorse the Burrows amendment as just amended by this body.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers, do you wish to speak to the amended Burrows amendment to 499?

SENATOR VICKERS: Yes, Mr. President. Mr. President, members, as most of you know, I am not the greatest fan of LB 499. As a matter of fact I think it is a terrible piece of legislation, but if this body insists, and it seems that we are insisting to send this puppy dog on across the floor, then let's at least attach a sunset clause to it, as Senator Burrows is suggesting. I would, of course, liked to have set the date 1978 perhaps, but since it is 1984, I would certainly support that, and I would suggest the conventions that Senator Johnson was discussing are attended by Nebraskans. Basically, the conventions that we have in Nebraska are attended by Nebraskans. For us to tax them to advertise the virtues of this state is rather ridiculous in my point of view. If we are going to attempt to get conventions, national conventions, to come to the State of Nebraska, maybe we should use some of these funds to alter the weather since most of the conventions are held in the wintertime and Nebraska is not known for summer type weather in the middle of the winter,