

March 19, 1981

LB 151

however, I have come to the conclusion that the bill is going to be a bad bill no matter how many years we make in it, so with that thought in mind, Mr. President, I would ask for unanimous consent to just withdraw this amendment.

PRESIDENT: All right, the amendment is withdrawn. Any further amendments, Mr. Clerk, on 151? All right, so we are ready to proceed then. Senator Johnson. All right, motion to advance LB 151 to E & R for Engrossment. Any discussion? Senator Kahle, did you wish to discuss the advance of LB 151?

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, I have had a lot of misgivings about this type of legislation. We have had it before us in several forms in the last years to exempt taxation for energy conserving projects, and I was going to say gimmicks but I better say projects, and I guess I feel down deep that if these energy saving devices are all that great, people won't need a tax exemption to put them in. So I oppose the bill. I think that it will help the rich certainly more than the poor because they are the ones that are putting in these devices because they are expensive, and most of them are well able to pay the tax on it if they feel that they want to go to this type of an energy saving device. So I don't know what else to say about it, but I just have a feeling that this is a mistake and that we shouldn't be going in this direction. You certainly can get a lot of argument as to how great this is going to be and how we need to save energy and I can't really argue with that. I guess all I would say in my closing of my remarks that if it really does conserve energy and if it is an advantage, I think they are going to put them in without tax exemption. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, this is a very important bill to deal with an important problem in the State of Nebraska and that being the energy problem. The bill is the result, as you have on your desk, I passed out the results of the constitutional amendment which established the authority for this legislation. Clearly the people voted 314,000 to 220 some thousand in favor of this effort to try and encourage solar energy. I believe that as Senator Kahle was talking about some of the concerns about exemptions, quite frankly, we have a solar industry developing in the State of Nebraska that needs a boost,