

March 19, 1981

LB 151

it needs an incentive and at this point this exemption would help a great deal. We have local businesses trying to sell solar energy but have had a difficult time because of the fact that as soon as you put on this equipment you are paying a tax on it, and so for a five year period we are saying we are going to give you a break to encourage you to put this equipment on your home to save energy, and I think that is a wise public policy decision to make. I think that this bill would encourage that activity which would save energy and provide domestic renewable energy to the State of Nebraska, and I would certainly encourage your support for it. Please take a look at the results of the voting. I think you will find that if there isn't strong support in your area at least there is not strong opposition. I think most people recognize now the need to move in this direction and the exemption we provide for here is a small one comparatively speaking, it's five years, when, in fact, national surveys indicate that perhaps fifteen year exemption may be appropriate. But five years is not unreasonable and certainly your support is encouraged.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I also am opposed to LB 151. I think maybe the energy credits were due a few years ago but we have had a lot of experimentation, we've had a lot of people who have used solar energy devices in their homes, have built homes underground, and I think our experimental stage on that point is gone or the point has been made out the people that are going to get credit for these devices when they buy them are not going to be the ones that really need that kind of help. I think it is a mistake to make these exemptions. We, as Senator Kahle mentioned a while ago, we have done this sort of thing in the past and I think we should look very carefully at making exemptions to this type of improvement.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to I think support this bill, LB 151. It is kind of interesting to me, LB 151 is a bill that basically complies with the constitutional amendment that we passed last year, basically is an extremely modest attempt to deal with this approach, this whole area of exemptions in a very limited case for only improvements, and then only for a five year period. But I hear a lot of opposition to this bill and it's kind of incredulous,