

at actually no cost. Let the people, the wealthy as you are saying, let them do it. Let them do the experimentation. Ten years from now that is going to be as old as can be and they are going to be changing to something new the same as we do in computers. It is something in the future, not right now. I approve of it.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Barrett.

SENATOR BARRETT: Mr. President, members, I very briefly also rise to express my concern for LB 151. I had problems with it last year when it was on the ballot. I continue to have problems with it. I think that the bill would certainly add to the ever increasing list of property tax exemptions that we now have and at the same time, there is no question in my mind that it would further serve to erode the local tax base. Although many of us do encourage the purchase of energy conservation systems, it appears to me that this could be an almost unapproachable way to get at this matter on the local level, trying to separate the value of energy conservation systems from the value of a house. I simply rise to express my concern once again for LB 151. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Ward Johnson, do you wish to speak?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Sure, it is my bill.

PRESIDENT: Yes, I know that. I would think you would.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Well I think that the arguments against the measure have been that it is a bill to benefit the rich and won't be of much advantage to the poor and that it is just another one of an unending line of exemptions and that it doesn't do much good in any event and that when the voters passed this constitutional amendment, it was only a permissive amendment so we don't have to do anything anyhow. I suppose that each one of those arguments has some validity but not total validity. I have a letter, for example, from energy persons at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, dated March 16, 1981. The writer says this. He is a professor and says, "A person in his fifties making \$22,000 yearly before taxes lives in a home recently revalued at \$41,000 and paying \$1,100 taxes per year. After reading that the cost of fuel may triple in the next decade, he realizes the very real possibility of losing his home or being miserably cold in it as he retires. He finds that approximately one-half of heating and perhaps more can be provided by a solar greenhouse he can have constructed for between \$4,000 and \$5,000. Considering interest on money he would have to borrow and the projected increase and the cost of fuel, the payback time for the unit is about ten years which would coincide with retirement time. The unit, if added