

to the value of his home would raise his taxes some ten dollars a month, drastically raising the payback period to over twenty years which makes a sensible monetary decision for a "no". The serious long-term penalty for such no decisions for the citizens of Nebraska is described below. Most people think of our fossil resources, gas, oil and coal, only in terms of their value as energy sources. This is terribly wrong. These resources are vital in every product we use that utilizes carbon change molecules. Without them we would not have plastics, pharmaceuticals, synthetic rubbers, synthetic fibers or farm chemicals." So all this bill does is it continues to enhance our development of alternative energy devices at a very low price. The fiscal analyst has said \$60,000 annually for five years. That is what the exemption... that is how long the exemption goes, five years. This bill is more likely to affect the middle class than it is the rich because it is the middle class farmer and homeowner that cannot afford to pay the rising utility costs and are making decisions now to make their homes more energy efficient. This bill also puts into effect what is clearly the will of the people in this state and that is to provide a modest exemption and the people in this state a number of years ago said, we can exempt certain items of personalty from the property tax like farm equipment, farm livestock and business inventories and so one of the things that happened is that we responded to their will. We responded to what the people said and at a much higher price. Last year, for example, last year on Select File of LB 882 we blithely exempted earth moving equipment from the personal property tax at a cost to this state of a half a million dollars a year. In my opinion this very small alternate energy exemption which would cost one-tenth of that half a million dollars, about \$60,000 annually, is an extraordinarily modest cost to begin to continue to encourage the support of alternate energy sources and as the UNO writer says, these very modest exemptions may literally make an alternate energy program appear to be financially feasible where it would not be feasible in a first instance. Without any question, the quicker you and I move into nonfossil fuel energy...

PRESIDENT: Let's have a little order. We can hardly hear.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: ...the quicker we move into nonfossil fuel energy, the better off we, as a nation and as a state, will be. This is not a big bill. This is not the kind of bill in my opinion that we should be exceedingly nervous about. It is a responsible measure and it truly does carry into effect, what was the will of the people last November. I can appreciate how this body is nervous about