

March 19, 1981

LB 151

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Chairman, members of the body, for several years we have been wrestling with this issue, how do we motivate individuals to try to move to alternate systems of heating, other types of conditions. Several years ago I think I offered to this body the possibility of exempting sales tax on those items which we would approve as being endorsed for the purpose of supplementing fossil fuels. I agree with what Senator Johnson said a moment ago. Oftentimes all we think of is gasoline or petroleum as a means of providing vehicle mobility to us. That is not true because as he said, there are so many products that are reliant upon the petroleum industry that oftentimes we overlook them. The last time I saw a figure it was up in the two hundreds or more of items that we constantly use in pharmaceuticals, you name it, everywhere. Now we are going to get worried here about exempting a tax. We are really not exempting a tax. How can you lose money on something we don't have enough of to tax? The fiscal impact of this bill really is nil, nil, absolutely nil. You are not losing a dollar. All you are doing is encouraging people to use alternate sources for heating, air conditioning, whatever and it is going to be exempt, I understand, for five years. Then after that, those subdivisions that depend upon property tax, they are going to have something of value there which then can be taxed and then becomes, not only beneficial to us in terms of alternate sources of energy but also they will provide us additional tax dollars that then goes to the subdivisions of government. That is what we are talking about. It is that simple and here we are spending much, much, much time, much ado about nothing really. Let's vote for LB 151 and get it going. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wagner.

SENATOR WAGNER: Mr. Speaker, I would call the question.

PRESIDENT: All right, the question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. The question then is, shall debate cease. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? The question is, shall debate cease. Record the vote.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Debate ceases. Senator Vard Johnson, do you wish to close on the advance of LB 151.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Yes, I do, Mr. President. This is a very quick closing. I think that we have discussed the