

April 8, 1981

LB 257

anything other than oil interest in their protestations with regards to the maneuvering on this bill. So I think that is the clear issue before us. Is the Nebraska Legislature just going to simply follow the wishes of the oil industry and ignore the energy question this year, let it go away hopefully somehow unresolved, or are we going to address straightforward the issues in this bill? What Senator DeCamp is proposing is to strip away the uranium section which is not needed, is handled in a separate bill, so that we can discuss energy issues and we can discuss Nebraska's severance tax, so we can discuss the fact that millions of dollars are flowing out of the Nebraska economy in higher and higher energy costs. That is the issue in front of us. I don't think we should hide behind some sort of procedural shadow. I think we should be straightforward about it. I think this Legislature needs to address the energy question. It is unfortunate that the only times we seem to be willing to do that is when the Arabs shut off our oil and then we pass resolutions and we posture on the floor and talk about how we have got to do something about energy and then we forget about it until the oil is shut off again. I think Senator DeCamp is to be commended for bringing this before us when maybe in fact we can operate on a calmer manner and not deal with an energy crisis. I support rejecting the committee amendments. I think this session of the Legislature should address the energy issue.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I certainly have no oil interests, we have no oil in Buffalo County, but the problem that I have, and perhaps it can be answered, is simply this. As I understand most of the oil companies that are in Nebraska are small companies. Now this added one percent could, I am not saying it would, but it certainly could limit exploration for oil in Nebraska, and I think right now that that is vitally important. We don't know just what we have in Nebraska with oil supplies and if, I am not talking about major companies, I am talking about small companies, we are going to take that much money out of exploration I am sure and I don't like to see that. I think maybe we are penny pound wise and pound foolish. So if someone can answer that to my satisfaction, I can go along. Otherwise, I certainly would protest vigorously.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator DeCamp, do you want to close on your motion to reject the committee amendments?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I