

April 8, 1981

LB 257

aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? I am talking about twenty-five votes. Have you all voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 13 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the committee amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is carried. The committee amendments are adopted. Senator DeCamp, do you wish to go to your amendment or do you want to explain the bill?

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes, Mr. President, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I applaud the Legislature for the courage they have shown. They don't want to duck the uranium issue and I didn't either. Again I applaud you. If there are technical corrections, I will certainly try to get them. Now that we have adopted the uranium aspect and determined to go with that, I would submit it is time to deal with the other energy aspects of the legislation. It is all compatible. It all deals with energy just as our regulation of uranium does. You have passed out to you information on the subject of additional energy questions and what the legislation does. The amendments are sponsored by myself, Senator Fowler, Senator Wesely. Let me quickly touch on what it does. It gives cities some flexible authority in the area of thermal efficiency standards. You may remember we passed legislation last year that directed, that directed that new construction meet certain standards. This would give cities permissive power in certain areas on existing structures. The amendment as we originally had it was opposed violently by homebuilders and others. As we have it now, we understand there is no, at least to my knowledge, no known opposition to it. It is just permissive flexibility for the cities. But let me get to the heart of the issue since that is what it is all about, the issue of whether we are going to have an increase in severance tax, and I am proposing in here an increase to three percent. I realize that Mr. Brown and the oil barons have determined that they can defeat this and I know they have lobbied it well. They reached an agreement with me privately for an increase. I see that was kind of halfway to throw me off guard. I am not sure that it pays off in the long run to do those things, whether you be a lobbyist or anybody else. However, the money from the increase in severance tax would raise a million or so dollars, hopefully, and we would take our monies that we are already raising and direct them to insulating public buildings, schools, so on and so forth. It would have a five year termination. The bill also has some aspects of solar energy credits so that on new solar developments, solar construction, you would receive a tax credit for a certain small, I think, twenty