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LB 257

seen that come close to that just in the last few years. Times are bad and they are going to get worse. We need to do something. You are responsible. You are the leadership of the State of Nebraska. This problem is a critical one. The bill before you which deals with some efforts to do something about the problem is a good one. We have worked hard on it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have thirty seconds.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and I encourage you to please support this proposal or at least give it some thought so when you go back to your constituents and they ask you what have you done to help me with my energy problems, with my utility bills, you will be able to say, "I was helpful. I helped this bill. I did this.", instead of being forced to say, "I turned my back. I am sorry I don't see a problem." There is a problem. There is a solution. The solution is in this bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Fowler.

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I rise to support the amendments. What the amendments offer is a conservative solution to a major problem. It is a conservative solution because it talks about conservation. It talks about using resources wisely. It talks about not wasting but allocating things properly. What the amendments call for is to start trying to make more efficient use of energy in our public buildings. Now the Appropriations Committee when we sit down and we look at costs, the highest cost we face beyond personnel costs, the highest escalating costs is the energy costs at all of our state institutions. Millions of dollars every year are added to the state budget and not one bit of additional service is provided, not one increase in quality. What is the conservative solution? Not to keep throwing all that money into paying the higher energy bills. The conservative solution, the solution offered by Senator DeCamp, is to start conserving some of that energy and that is what the amendments to 257 talk about. Now when all of us run for office, we go back to our constituents and people look at us and say, "How come you guys never do anything down there? How come you don't get anything done? How come we have all these problems and you waste all your time?" Well, now and then some Senators step forward and offer to this body for their consideration solutions to problems, not easy solutions, not necessarily simple solutions, but things that can be acted on. Now if this Legislature today simply says, "We are not going to deal with the energy problem. We are not going to address