

April 8, 1981

LB 257

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I wonder if Senator DeCamp could yield to a question please. Senator DeCamp, I apologize first of all for being out of the room for a second but I want to make sure I understand the...

SENATOR DeCAMP: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: ...proposal that you are having. You are proposing a three percent severance tax, is that all?

SENATOR DeCAMP: That is correct.

SENATOR CULLAN: Okay, that is all I need. Thank you, Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Senator Cullan, could I say something else?

SENATOR CULLAN: Yes, you certainly can.

SENATOR DeCAMP: See, if you had been here on time, we would be on your bill instead of my bill.

SENATOR CULLAN: I apologize. I had a luncheon engagement and I am sorry that I am late, Senator DeCamp, but at this point in time I would have to rise to support the DeCamp and Wesely amendments. I think the...Fowler, excuse me, the Fowler amendments...I think we have to take a look at what is really occurring in the State of Nebraska and nationwide at this point in time and we have to think a little bit about the philosophy of severance taxes and what we are going to do. First of all, I think it is incredible that we are talking only about a three percent severance tax. I would like to point to the severance taxes in some of the other states, for example. In Louisiana there is a twelve point five percent of gross value; in Kentucky, four point five percent of market value; in Michigan, six point six percent; in Mississippi, six percent; in North Dakota, five percent; in Oklahoma, seven percent; in Wyoming, six percent. Nebraska is going to be very low even if we do adopt this additional severance tax. I think we should adopt the severance tax. I think the Senators who have been working on this bill have made a sincere effort to try and accomplish some legitimate goals and we ought to follow their leadership. We ought to increase the severance tax and move on. As far as the uranium amendments are concerned, that is not something that we need to accomplish in this legislative session. It is something that we will work on in the future. I urge you to support Senator DeCamp and Senator Wesely and Senator Fowler. In the long range, there is no doubt that this country