

the matter of severance tax. I think we have the philosophy in this state that the whole purpose of a severance tax was to leave something for future generations. When you deplete resources of the land, we are using the oil, that when this oil is gone that there be something to show for this resource in the future. And I don't know just how far back our school funds go, but the idea was that we put it in a permanent school fund and then in that way future generations would benefit from the resources that we have depleted. And I think that we should be very careful before we reject that, the idea of the philosophy of the severance tax in Nebraska as being something that is being left for future generations. I know that you are going to say that the energy costs are going to destroy the chances of future generations but I don't think we are going to do it this way. So my main plea is that you are honest about your approach. Put the cost where we know what we are paying and, second, have another thought about the philosophy of the severance tax in Nebraska in the permanent school fund. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, one of the things that I think about quite frequently as I vote on issues is the effect my vote will have on my children and your children and our children's children. I think that one of the marks of a legislator is that that legislator thinks about future generations. It is easy to consume our resources now and deplete what we have and pay no heed to tomorrow because our life is very finite. We have a short span. We have to be concerned about our children's well-being. I am a strong supporter of public education and one reason why is because I want to make certain that our children will have the ability, the education, the talents and the knowledge to be civilized, to lead productive lives and so on. And so when I deal with this energy issue, I think more about tomorrow than I do today and I think more about what we are doing to a very finite resource, oil and gas, and what we are not doing to exploit that which is available to us in almost inexhaustible sources, the sunlight, and it strikes me that 257 with the Fowler amendment is one way that you and I will have of ensuring to our children and our children's children that they can have a plentiful life just as our forefathers brought forth for us, but if you and I sit back in our chairs and continue to countenance the depletion of the resource without attempting to provide alternative resources, then we are really sowing the whirlwind for our children's tomorrow. Now I recognize, Senator Remmers, that a three percent severance tax will fall hard on some of the industry in your area and certainly not on