

because they can't afford to keep open with a one percent increase in the severance tax. In 1978 a barrel of oil brought \$12 a barrel in the State of Nebraska and that barrel now gets \$38. In three years it tripled in price on the amount that they are earning on that barrel. This tax of a one percent increase would mean about 32¢ less that they are going to be making on that darn barrel of oil that they are now getting \$38 for. I think that is absolutely ridiculous. We are talking about 32¢ less that is going to go in and save this state a great deal of money and we talked about...Senator Remmers talked about, "Oh! This is a hidden tax and, oh, this is a terrible way to tax and raise money." Well, let me tell you, what better way is there, because we are talking about taxing the resources of this state, the oil and gas resources of this state, which are not going to be here forever. They are going to be gone. I was talking with Senator Kremer who showed me an Ogallala aquifer study that shows a year from now, in our lifetime even, we are not going to have near the production capabilities that we now have in this state for oil and gas. It is a resource that is being eliminated. By using the money from the tax on this resource, we are going to be able to conserve that resource and make it last longer, conserve all our resources in this state. It seems to me to be absolutely the best source of raising the money, and as I said before, there is a great deal of profit there for these oil producers and this is not going to hurt them. This is, in fact, a very small amount of money that we are asking for them to contribute to the betterment of this state. And I think when we talked before about, well, we should conserve and I am sure with it all the way and, gosh, we should do something but let's do it on our own, we did some studies the last two years in this body and the biggest problem we have in this state to conservation isn't that people don't recognize the need to conserve, people want to conserve, our consumption rates are reflecting that, but the real long term, real effective conservation is yet to be achieved because we don't have the money to invest. We are at a point now where it costs up front capital money to put down to put in that insulation to conserve and it costs money up front, but over the long run you gain. Well, we just don't have that up front money. Sure, everybody realizes long term we will get that investment back. We will get that money back many times over but it is that initial investment that we don't have the resources for, and when Senator Kahle and other people talk about that, they have to recognize the fact that somebody is going to have to support the financing of these efforts. That is the big problem we have and this is the best source of funding for that. It is the most appropriate source, and quite frankly,