

I think when we talk about the ag efforts to conserve keep in mind a lot of this money that we are going to raise through this tax is going to go to ag extension programs. The University is going to take that money and use it to maintain ag extension programs on conservation and I think that is absolutely a wise way to go. Now we have talked about, Senator Hefner talked all about the terrible amount of money we are spending on energy and how the private enterprise will take care of the problem. Well, let's talk a bit about that because what we are trying to do with this bill and with other efforts is to subsidize and help conservation efforts. That has been opposed as, oh, government interference and all that. Well, by god, the government has been interfering for a long time in the energy area. We have been subsidizing electrical production through REA loans. We have talked about nuclear production. We have spent billions of dollars on nuclear research...

SPEAKER MARVEL: You have one minute.

SENATOR WESELY: (Interruption). We are not new to the field of encouraging different energy development and what we are doing now is saying, "One way we can go is to encourage energy conservation." That is an alternative we haven't started to subsidize and help as we have in other areas. It is time we started. It is the cheaper alternative. It will save in the long run. I don't think there is any doubt that there is a great need and a wise investment here. The money from the severance tax is going to go into public buildings. It is going to go into weatherizing low income homes. Low income people are getting energy assistance money. That is money down a rat hole as far as I am concerned if you don't weatherize those homes. We can save public funds many times over by conserving energy in these low income homes. We can save tax dollars by conserving in our schools, in our public buildings where energy inefficiency increases our utility bills. They are exempted from the lid and the encouragement is there to go ahead and spend that money and those tax dollars on the energy bills when, in fact, we could put that money into conservation and save those tax dollars.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Your time is up. Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we had a big flak here a few days ago to save one hundred and eighty jobs in Omaha. Well, this is the same thing right here. Here is a letter from one outfit who operates an average of forty rotary rigs in the State of Nebraska in