

to support the bill that is here today but I will not support the proposal as it has been outlined because of some of the reasons advanced by Senator Pemmers and other of my colleagues. I believe that the issue needs to be addressed. I believe the issue of conservation is a very important one and I believe the issue of winterization, insulation, all of those are important. Senator Kuhle has pointed out we have been told time and again to conserve. Ladies and gentlemen, it costs me about \$30 every two days to drive to Lincoln. You don't need to be encouraged to conserve at that rate. Those engines that pump water for us, Senator DeCamp, require six to eight gallons per hour at \$1.25 to \$1.35 per gallon diesel fuel, that is \$10 an hour, twenty-four hours a day is \$240 a day. Only an idiot is going to let that engine run just for the fun of hearing it roar. There are some very important issues that need to be addressed, and I don't think the issue was resolved before the Banking Committee. I don't think it is going to be addressed in the manner in which it is addressed in these provisions. Now I concur entirely with Senator Wesely that I do not shed any tears for the petroleum companies. I think they are going to get along and I think they are going to survive on \$38 a barrel oil and I think it is probably going to go to \$40 and it is going to go to \$42 and it is going to go to \$50. Do you know why? Because the people in positions of authority and responsibility within the Congress have said it is going to. Now I want to be careful how I say this because I don't want to be accused of putting words in someone's mouth, but if there were direct collusion between the Congress and the oil companies, the situation that exists today could not work more to the benefit of both. The taxes paid by the petroleum companies into the coffers of the federal government are a substantial benefit to the federal government. They are of no benefit to the state. They bring no revenue to the state but the federal government and the oil companies are both doing well at the expense of the average consumer, and there may well come a time, Senator Wesely and Senator DeCamp and Senator Fowler, and I think that it is probably nearer than we believe, when we need to take a look at the situation as it exists today but not only, Senator DeCamp, in the area of severance tax on petroleum but a little additional tax on those tons and tons of coal that are chugging across Nebraska and many other sources of energy because it all needs to be addressed. I said one time on the floor of this body, and I have been chastised for it, but time has not proven me wrong, I think it was in 1974, the energy crisis was created by man for profit. If you will check the records now, you will find that reserves of petroleum are at an all time high, but because of those reserves being at an all time high, the price must go up.