

route you can go and without great competition establishing that natural gas price to the consumer. I think it is a folly to take off the natural gas price and especially with the elderly people that are not young, don't have the resources to change their heating units for their homes. They are hooked up to one pipeline, and to move faster in deregulation is a serious mistake because we are hurting the weakest, the elderly, the poor. They are hooked up to one source of supply. They don't have the assets to convert to other heat sources and I strongly support the resolution with the reservation of ever accepting the gradual. But if we pass this resolution, at least we are voicing opposition to total deregulation and usurious rates coming into the people's homes. I support the resolution and urge the body to do so. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Higgins. We will go on then to Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, this resolution, like a lot of other resolutions we make and pass, because it is just a resolution, it doesn't really mean anything necessarily, but it sounds like a good idea. Anything this Legislature could do to reduce the gas prices seems like a good thing to do. I hate to admit that I am not an authority on natural gas prices. I wish I were. If there is anybody that is on this floor, I would certainly like them to stand up and say why it is that if we support this resolution the natural gas prices would go down. Now in this article that is handed out, to quote this article which we are supposed to believe and because this article appeared in the World Herald, we are supposed to adopt and pass this resolution. "The Energy Department has not come to any hard and fast conclusion about the affect of any possible speed up of natural gas decontrol or consumer bills." Well, what that means is even our own Energy Department in the United States doesn't know what this would mean. I would think that unless we had something more positive to stand on, to pass such a resolution seems quite meaningless. Maybe it is a really good resolution. Maybe it is a lousy one. How do we know what the overall result will be just by passing this resolution? I would think that we should really look into things rather than this haphazardly passing a resolution of which we know very little about.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. Speaker, members of the Unicameral, Senator Hefner said, "if the price of gas goes too high, you can go to electricity or some other source". Senator