

Hefner, I have been trying to get electricity for my irrigation wells for over two years and they tell me that it is probably going to be another two years before I can get it. So I can't really agree with that statement. You say that if we don't pass this resolution and deregulate gas, we are going to run the wildcatters right out of the state. Well, now, what were we doing the other day? We were adding a tax to the wildcatters and the people that drill oil wells because they were doing such a fine job in the state. They said these people were pumping so much oil and we have got so much oil, let's raise the tax on them. And now we are saying that if we don't pass a resolution like this or deregulate it, we are going to run them out, just the big oil companies. Now that doesn't add up. Whenever you deregulate anything, you all know what happens. The price goes out of sight. She just goes zoom and away she goes. So I am going to have to say that let's go easy and go slow on the deregulation. Remember here a few years ago when we'd say, "My gosh! Gas is going to 75¢". Why we wouldn't pay 75¢ a gallon for gasoline. It got to 75¢ and somebody would say, "Hey! Gas is going to go to \$1.00". Well, you have lost your mind. We will never pay a \$1.00 for a gallon of gas. Then somebody said, "It is going to go to \$1.25". No, it never will. I will never pay \$1.25. So now it is up to \$1.47. If it went back to \$1.00, gee, we would think that was cheap. We have been brainwashed. We have been brainwashed that when a price goes up, up, up and up, and if they'd ever bring it down, which they won't, to \$1.00 a gallon for gasoline, we would think we were really getting a bargain. This is how those things happen is when you take the lid off and let them go and let them make those fabulous big profits which they are making and they are not cutting the price. They are taking the profit and putting it in their pocket. I am not against private enterprise making a profit. I am against their gouging. That is what I am against. So I am going to have to speak against the resolution, and as somebody says we are spending a lot of time on something this morning that doesn't mean too much. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would like to reflect a bit on some of the comments made concerning...perhaps Senator Nichol's comments, Senator Hefner. Senator Peterson talked a bit about the question of the marketplace and its role in this whole issue. Let me tell you quite frankly that in the committee hearing which I did sit through I was convinced from one side to the other on this resolution because I took the same position you did. I thought the marketplace ought to determine the