

do what is right for their school district. If the money is channeled out through the state aid program we won't need any more bureaucracy. We won't need any more paper blizzards. It can be taken up in the already existing programs. Then perhaps even more objectionable to me than the school weatherization program is the tax credit for energy conservation devices to private individuals and corporations. Thousands of people have already decided energy conservation is important and they are doing something about it. Now these people would receive no help. For the people getting into the act now there is no gamble and they are not people that cannot afford the projects. The poor will not take advantage of this boondoggle because tax credits do not mean much to them. Every day we have proposals on this floor to give somebody a tax cut and also a proposal to spend more money. Somebody must pay more. There is no free lunch. This tax credit, I believe in the next five years could cost the state several million dollars in lost taxes on expenditures that for the most part would be made anyway. In the campaign last fall there was no message that came through stronger than the message that we want less government, the message that we just cannot afford all those good things the government wants to do for the people. The message came through in the national elections. Quoting from Murray Weidenbaum, the Chairman of President Reagan's Council of Economic Advisors, he says, "So much government regulation is supposedly proconsumer but is actually anticonsumer at heart. Why? Because the hidden costs are passed on to the consumer." I believe that the people of our state will make those decisions that they need to make on their own and I ask that this bill be returned for the amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Before we go to the next speaker, the Chair would like to introduce from Senator Newell's District some 32 students from Omaha North, Mary Brown is the teacher, up in the North balcony. Welcome, Omaha North, to your Nebraska Unicameral Legislature. The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I can understand Senator Remmers' frustrations with the bill. I have, too, been frustrated with some of the changes that have gone through this bill. I would personally like to go to the original bill as it was introduced which would have had a 6 percent severance tax and would have used half that amount, or I should say 4 percent of that amount, to go to the different programs that we had found to be needing in terms of energy conservation and energy development. It would have left the 2 percent with the permanent school fund, however, the