

May 5, 1981

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We passed, I have had Mr. Siefkes along with others trying to resolve the issue and I believe we have resolved it. First of all, the weatherization program would be transferred completely to the Department of Energy and some in here have said our Office of Energy is a bureaucratic office. That is not correct. I have had many different opportunities to visit with Mr. Palmer in that office, finding him very efficient and very effective in notifying schools of federal dollars that are available for the purpose of weatherization. So I don't believe we should call them bureaucrats in a true sense of the word simply because there is an office there which is called the Energy Office. Not only that, we all know that federal dollars are rapidly being withdrawn and very strong reductions are being made and I have here before me the estimates that I would like to get to all of you that presently today there is a great demand for dollars to help schools to weatherize their buildings. Certainly there have been some ahead of the game like there always are. Some in my area have been at it for a period of five years and to you, Senator Higgins, they have been using their own tax dollars with some federal dollars on a match basis and I submit to you that what Senator DeCamp and Senator Wesely are offering is not an ill-advised proposal. I think if we want to make the best use of energy and get the most bucks for it, then we better get at the business of weatherizing to the best of our scientific knowledge. At the present time I have an amendment up there which will follow Senator Remmers' and I would hope that it would be adopted because I provide a two year sunset on this proposal. It will be reviewed by the Appropriations Committee. At that time those monies which were because of the severance tax would then lapse into the school foundation and equalization aid and there they would remain. The present money that we have in that fund realizes us approximately no more than \$600,000 a year at best and I want you to know you can't do much weatherizing on that amount of money. Secondly, Senator Remmers says that the local school boards would not be involved. That is not quite true. Senator Remmers knows that any grant application he ever made had to be approved by its school board before the application was ever officially submitted and they knew exactly what was in the proposal at the time it was submitted for possible approval. So what I am saying to you is that there will be tax relief in the fact that the schools would not have to draw upon their own local budgets for this purpose. If their grant is approved, there are some federal dollars which match it, then they will receive that proposal. So I suggest to you we are doing several things. One is we are indeed saving taxes on property. Secondly, we are making possible a savings through

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