May 5, 1981

with them. Senator Koch's amendment could do that. The Remmers amendment is there. You are probably going to vote for it but the State of Nebraska is going to lose. I won't lose and Senator DeCamp and Senator Fowler won't lose but the state will lose because we again have not done what we need to do on energy and we will go another year without taking the action that is necessary.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, I think this is the one place we have a vote that will show whether the Nebraska Legislature takes a serious interest in the energy crisis of our nation. Now we have a real problem of people affording fuel right here in our state but that is not the big problem. The big problem is our dependence on foreign oil and the different forms of energy are interchangeable and for this Legislature not to make any single positive move, I think is living in the Middle Ages. Today we are spending, our military budget is going out the roof and the primary need for a military budget is really the defense of the Middle East and our oil interest in the Middle East. I think everyone in here has friends, relatives that are potential people in a future war and the future potential of war is the Middle East because of our dependency on oil. Now if our federal government can't look at this, certainly our state government can see it. The people can see it and I think this Legislature is certainly obligated to make a move at least on energy to express our concerns on energy by passing some measure that will, at least in some ways, reduce our dependency on oil and reduce our energy consumption. Now the issue is simple as far as this bill. The amendment makes it a state aid bill and takes away the portions that are an energy bill. Now any approach that we take to reduce our energy consumption is going to run into the same problem we had with this bill. We are going to subsidize when we help out on energy to a degree, those that have not done what they should have done in weatherization of schools or in private homes or anything else. So if we submit to the argument that we cannot subsidize those, we say in the future we can't do anything to solve the energy crisis in principle. That is what we are saying and I think we have got to overlook that and go with the energy crisis. I am really disappointed in our nation in this field because I believe this country has the technological advancement to solve our energy problems and become energy independent in a matter of three years if the resources of this country could be put in this direction. This is just one small step in that direction but the only step that is before us to move in the direction of becoming energy independent. I think it is a sad mistake and I