

May 5, 1981

LB 257

Imagine this amendment will be adopted and turn it into a state aid measure but we are overlooking the national and state energy issue that I think is really unpardonable to this session of the Legislature. I urge the membership to reject the amendment and do something on energy this year. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, Senator Wesely and Senator Burrows, Senator DeCamp have stated it well, that we as leaders oftentimes espouse the fact that we should be more conscious of preserving and conserving our natural resources. We talk about our water. We talk about our soil. We talk about our energy. This bill gets to that issue and I know there are some educators I have visited with, been around a long time who have some apprehensions about how sacred that money is that we place into that permanent fund and how great it is that we get that few hundred thousand dollars a year that we dribble out to the schools. But I submit to you that those same educators if they really believe in conservation, then they would admit that LB 257 has merit. And I have an amendment that I think is most appropriate, not because I happen to be the one offering it. The amendment I would offer, providing we do not accept Senator Remmers' amendment, we would strike the tax credit portion of it which appears to be rather offensive to many people and that is a commitment I make to you. We provide a two year provision under which the weatherization funds are made available. Those funds which are not used for the purpose of grants for weatherization would then lapse into the state foundation and equalization formula just as we know it now. So I am suggesting to you that it is not in our best interest to act in haste. This bill has merit and I believe we should not adopt Senator Remmers' amendment, that we should look at the amendment that I have offered to you in its totality and get a new perspective on what might be most beneficial. It is interesting to me today that in the public schools, the elementary schools, private schools, they all have a week where they emphasize conservation of energy and those young people today know it better than we do. Don't think they don't. I have observed them in my community where they are picking up all kinds of aluminum cans for a purpose of recycling, newspapers last week in my community for the purpose of recycling. Who is doing it? The young people are doing it, not the adults. The adults contribute to the litter and to the waste. The young people today are more responsible and more knowledgeable about conservation than we are. Not only do they know it, they practice it and for us today to greedily take what we think is a windfall