

SENATOR FOWLER: Mr. President, I would oppose Senator Schmit's amendment to strike from the resolution support for President Reagan's program of economic sanctions. First, I think we ought to understand that those economic sanctions are fairly mild compared to other times, that it was a restrained action, and that the majority of the people of the United States recognize it as such. They are limited sanctions. They are not as far even as President Carter went in the situation of Afghanistan, but they are, in fact, a message of support and concern from the United States to the people in Poland. I think for this Legislature to repudiate President Reagan's foreign policy action in this area would be a mistake. Now Senator Schmit I know his concern for starving people does carry over across the world and that it does carry over the United States in programs here, but I think all too often we see the argument used on this floor that food can be used as a weapon in domestic policy, that people should be denied food in order to somehow get some sort of social action out of them, and it amazes me that we then turn around on foreign policy matters including support of Communist regimes and repression and suddenly get this kind of a holy sanctimonious statement that food cannot be used as a weapon. I would say again that my view of Senator Schmit that he has been consistent in that policy. He doesn't want to see it used as a weapon in domestic affairs or international affairs, but I think that we should go along with the resolution as originally introduced, support President Reagan in his restrained economic sanctions that as Senator Schmit pointed out include things like not selling Caterpillar tractors to the Soviet Union so that a natural gas line can be built between West Germany and the Soviet Union, something that obviously is going to jeopardize the western alliance if, in fact, it is built. So I think there are a lot of issues at stake here. I think in this area the President has shown good restraint and I think it would be a mistake for the Nebraska Legislature to repudiate him.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. President. I would support Senator Schmit's resolution up to the point where he strikes this last paragraph on the original resolution and it says, and further supports the Reagan program of economic sanctions against Poland and the Soviet Union and affirms the solidarity with the workers and people of Poland. The original intent of the resolution in meeting with the people in Omaha and talking to people across the state and as you know in Omaha, especially in South Omaha, my District, the