

March 16, 1982

LB 799

Committee and was reported back to General File with committee amendments, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, so nobody is confused, there were two major energy bills this year, one had to do with substantive matters, that was 738 upon which you have gotten a lot of mail. The other was 799, the one you have before you, that tried to look at the energy legislation of the past five or ten years, make technical or efficiency corrections and that was it. However, so you do know, there are two what you would call substantive things in this particular bill. Those two things are energy grant money out of the Energy Grand Fund for ESUs and for technical community colleges. This Legislature killed that identical proposal on Final Reading. Therefore, in order to make this bill nothing, absolutely nothing more than technical corrections, I have agreed with Senator Koch and others to allow those provisions to be struck in an amendment to the committee amendments. The committee amendment itself is the only other thing that could be called possibly substantive and it does as follows: It states that when apportioning the energy money for the schools the Energy Office shall as far as is reasonably possible try to do it on an equitable basis according to Congressional District. Why was that done? Senator Haberman and some others made the allegation or complaint that Lincoln and Omaha ended up with most of the energy grant money. For that reason the committee chose to adopt this amendment. Now I have no particular feelings either way on it. I think the Energy Office did apply the grants based upon the best applications and I think they will in the future. However, this adds one additional factor that they would try to look at, make sure about a third went to one Congressional District, a third to the other, and a third to the other. With that said, let me say simply once again this is the technical cleanup bill to make more efficient the whole energy program. It does not have an A bill because it does not, as you can see or read, is not intended to have any fiscal impact. For example, where you might be filing two forms, it tries to simplify it to one. It clears up some problems for the City of Lincoln on thermal efficiency standards, and the substantive things, once again, I am willing to have stricken from the bill so we can get this bill passed. The major energy bill, 738, again when it comes up, will deal with the major substantive things at that time should we have enough time, but at this time I do think it is important that we get the corrective things