

April 7, 1982

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worked in other industries. On that basis, I would urge you not to kill the bill and to advance it. It may, as I say, be one of the few things you can say we actually did something other than just threw another tax on somebody.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Clark.

SENATOR CLARK: Mr. President and members, I certainly agree with Senator Remmers. You talk about the prices of gasoline going up. They are coming down. Why? There is a glut on the market of gasoline. They are shutting down refineries because they can't sell what they are producing. The schools are to get the severance tax originally because all the students and all the people could enjoy a depleting resource. That is exactly what the severance tax is for. It certainly was never to put in geothermal or anything else. Geothermal, if it is really good, certainly can be supported by those that are going to use it. If they can't do that, they shouldn't use it in the first place. I had a gas regulatory bill in 1972 and I missed by one vote of getting it passed. If you really wanted to control the industry, you should have bought that bill at that time. Who killed it? The only ones that killed that was the League of Municipalities, the ones that really need it now. They killed that bill. The Oil and Gas Commission was going to regulate that because they had the expertise to regulate it. But they killed the bill because they wanted the gas companies to go to every 155 city councils out in the western part of the state with the Kansas-Nebraska Gas Company and have to bargain for a rate. City councils know nothing of regulation on gas. They are just ordinary people like you and me. There is nothing there that they know anything about. They don't even know the terminology and I am not kicking them down. There is a lot of technical things that people don't know unless they study it. But because of that I tried to put that regulation in and we failed it by one vote, and I am sorry we did because it would have created a lot of animosity, it has created animosity so far with the gas companies and the people out there that are on the city councils. This bill should be killed. I was never in favor of the bill when it came out before. By a subterfuge they had they took the amendment out of committee and then when they got on the floor they did not take the committee amendments and put the bill back in its original form and put it through. I was not in favor of it then. I am not in favor of it now, and I don't know why they attack the severance tax all the time when that should go to the permanent school fund. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Howard Peterson.

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