

April 14, 1982

LR 212

SENATOR CLARK: Have you all voted on the amendment to the resolution? We have got a lot of resolutions to go through here if we can get a vote on them. I always vote, did you vote? Record the vote please.

CLERK: 26 ayes, 0 nays, Mr. President, on the adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: The amendment is adopted. Next amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have another amendment, Senator Burrows would move to amend, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Burrows. Amendment by Senator Burrows.

SENATOR BURROWS: Mr. Chairman, members of the Legislature, this amendment would take out the line that supports the gradual deregulation act of 1978. I feel that it is imperative that we take out that one brief part because that is the act that has caused the natural gas price increases of this winter. I think that when we oppose the rapid decontrol of natural gas it is important that we do not support that that was done in 1978 that is actually causing the homeowner to pick up that new and very heavy gas bill this winter. I urge that the members support this part of the resolution striking this part of the resolution that would strike the support of the 1978 act that has already caused a hardship on so many of the elderly and people that have income problems in the state.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely and then Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, although I sympathize with the concerns of Senator Burrows I would have to ask that you vote against this amendment to the resolution. The reason is this. If we would adopt the Burrows amendment and not support the gradual decontrol of natural gas you may take a bigger step and thus have a bigger problem if you would indicate support for then possibly total decontrol of natural gas. Under the present proposal the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 what is decontrolled is new natural gas. That is about 40% of our present supply of natural gas. That would be decontrolled, but the 60% of the supply that we use in Nebraska natural gas is old gas. It is gas that is not going to be decontrolled and thus it is kept under the federal regulations. So we would prefer having that situation where we have a gradual decontrol and we still maintain some control on this old gas and the possibility that is now being discussed in Washington that we have a rapid decontrol of all natural gas and we think

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