

April 16, 1982

LB 799

SENATOR LAMB: Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I'm beginning to sound like a broken record I suppose on this bill, but I still feel very strongly about it. There are one or two minor parts of the bill that I wish could be saved but I think the rest of it should be killed. I can appreciate the amount that is set aside for geothermal and also for gasohol but beyond that I really feel that there isn't anything there that I could support or that the rest of you should support. This is a combination of 738 and 799. As you know this indicates that it's not going to cost much money but I believe the bill states that \$200,000 is to be transferred from the energy fund to cover administrative cost and I have got some figures here, a handout that indicates that maybe the tax credits would only amount to about \$240,000 the first year. That would be a rather expensive administration but seeing how most government programs are run it doesn't surprise me. I think we find that most government programs cost us more money than we get out of it. I said before that the savings in this bill will not be realized by the poor or the unemployed. I can't see the need for it to stimulate solar energy development. There is already a federal tax credit of \$4000, 40 percent of the cost of a solar or of a secondary energy type structure. So on top of that we want to put another 30 percent credit. I think we forget that a lot of people have already made these energy saving devices, have put them in their homes, have spent their money for it. As I say, the poor are not going to take advantage of it, so we want to give somebody another 30 percent tax credit on top of the 40 that they already have. It seems to me that if the 40 percent won't generate the business....

SENATOR LAMB: One second, Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Yes.

SENATOR LAMB: (Gavel). Could we have it quiet in here? It is very noisy, very hard to hear Senator Remmers. Please continue.

SENATOR REMMERS: If the 40 percent federal tax credit hasn't generated the business, I can't see that another 30 percent is going to do the job. Again as I say, there are many people that have done this on their own expense. This is also tied to 738, the school weatherization program. No, it doesn't cost extra tax money but it does take money from the severance tax funds which originally had