

they have had to revert to utilizing some of this weatherization fund, and I understand that, and that's why some specific questions can be raised. But is that all bad? If you take and move this over to the Education Office and take away this resource to the Energy Office, do we really gain as a state? I don't think so. I think energy continues to be a concern, and ought to continue to be a focus, and there aren't resources being put in outside of this program and some federal monies. So I think the compromise offered by Senator Beutler is a better way to do. It does help address the concerns Senator Robinson and Senator Withem have with the computer systems, in trying to help the schools, and, obviously, that's a hotter topic than conservation is these days, but I still think there is some legitimate need to continuing the program that we have to some degree and recognizing its contribution over the years and the fact that it can continue to contribute into the future. So I rise in support of the Beutler amendment and encourage you to consider it as a reasonable alternative to the Robinson amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Senator Withem.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Excuse me, thank you, Senator Crosby, members of the body. A couple of things...one thing I would like to clarify on Senator Wesely's remarks, you know, he went through the history and talked about school people fighting the establishment of the weatherization program and school people fighting the reauthorization of it, and he said, and here they are again. I would like to clarify that this is the legislatively initiated response to this problem. It is not one that came from the lobby or any attempt by anybody in the lobby to deal with the weatherization program. It initiated, excuse me, it initiated as a result of a disagreement between Senator Robinson and myself, not about the end objectives of LB 860, but as the means of getting there, and I objected to using...to earmarking the lottery funds for that purpose. So we committed to work toward eliminating that difficulty and this is what we came up with. Senator Beutler made some remarks about why didn't people come in, if the weatherization program was a problem, why didn't people come in to try to get rid of it? Well, they didn't have to, Senator Beutler. The law of the State of Nebraska, as we stand here today, is that this program will cease to exist July 1 of 1996, so there was no need to come forward. We know in here that in practicality we very rarely let sunsets take effect, that we tend to perpetuate these