

May 16, 1973

SENATOR FRED CARSTENS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, about fifteen..twelve or fifteen years ago, I attended a number of conferences of two week duration in Cheyenne, Wyoming conducted by the armed forces which was a review and a study of the natural resources this country had available to us. At that time, it was already obvious and clear that we were a have-not nation and it has...we have been a have-not nation for a long time and the fact is that we have abused our resources to the point where the old mother earth is just protesting and the problems that we have in the field of energy are here and they are here to stay and I shudder to think of what future days and years and generations are going to have to face concerning this problem and I would be 100% in supporting this Resolution or any bill that has to do with the conservation of our natural resource. Now this is in every area. They are all inter-related and inter-connected. Fuel oil is used to generate electricity. Gas is used generate electricity and both are used to fuel our farm machinery. They are all in competition with one another and we are going to have this problem from now on out, and no amount of Resolutions and no amount of statutes that we pass is going to make any change unless we actually get into it and get into a hardline enforcement in the conservation of our resources. It does..it will do no good to blame producers or to blame oil companies or this or that because the demand is greater than our capacity to produce, even if the production..even if the resources exist to produce and that may be questionable. Now I happen to be in our city last night, in my own city, and I was absolutely appalled at the roar in the streets of tires and motors and cars and vehicles going around in endless, mindless circles and I discovered that it was the last night for Senior High School students. A most appalling waste of energy one could ever picture. Just a bunch of silly kids provided with high powered vehicles burning up our precious resources that are irreplaceable. I had a man stop in my office yesterday who complained that he was in Iowa Sunday going down the interstate and a couple of characters in a motor vehicle belonging to Kearney State College, in other words a state vehicle, were ripping up the Iowa highway interstate at a high rate of speed going apparently nowhere on Sunday. You go home and you see vehicles on the highway belonging to every Department of state government, local government, county government, school districts, all milling around in endless procession and I am sure that half of them are...the energy of half of them are being..is being wasted and this same thing is true of civilians. The fact of the matter is that we have come to believe a fairy tale. We've believed for a long time the propaganda that we were the richest nation in the world, that we had an endless amount of resources of all kinds, natural resources of all kinds, wealth beyond measure, and we are coming to realize slowly and surely, but painfully, that it has come to an end and we are just going to have to change our style of living if we are going to have our resources meet the demands and if we are going to have resources that even will begin to provide our needs, our agricultural needs, our transportation needs, our power generative needs, and things of that nature. And if this is going to help a little bit, and I don't know if it will help a little bit, but, at least, we are going to get started. But I think we are going to have to give the Governor the power one of these days, almost virtual dictatorial powers, to limit the use of transportation only in the field where it is needed. So let's support these things and let's get going and get them on the way so that we have made a start.

PRESIDENT: Let's go back and pick up Senator Carpenter, now, for his question of Senator Schmit. Senator Carpenter had