

April 18, 1979

LB 571

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, do you wish to take the time? He is giving you the rest of his time as I understand it.

SENATOR DeCAMP: I will just use it on closing if that is okay.

PRESIDENT: All right. The Chair recognizes Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, I think it is about time we ask for the question and I do that, respectfully.

PRESIDENT: The question has been called for. The question is, do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed nay. Voting on ceasing debate on the Schmit amendment to LB 571. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 28 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Was that, twenty what?

CLERK: 28.

PRESIDENT: 28. Motion carries. Debate ceases. Senator Schmit, did you want to close on the amendment?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, there have been many people who have spoken this morning in support of the program. There have been some concerns expressed by Senator Hefner and Senator Dworak. As I indicated earlier, they would be legitimate concerns and I share their concern as I think do many members of this Legislature. The fact is that at this time we really need to do something if we are going to address the issue in any way at all. The increased cost of petroleum in the State of Nebraska to Nebraska citizens since this Legislature has gone into session for gasoline alone will cost this state about \$150 million on an annual basis. When you multiply that by the other sources of energy plus the increased cost that we are promised for future, we are looking at increased cost for energy for the State of Nebraska citizenry of about \$600 million. That is the equivalent of the general fund budget for the entire State of Nebraska. I think we all recognize, Senator Frank Lewis mentioned what would happen if we would attempt to raise the tax burden of the State of Nebraska by even a few million dollars. We'd hear considerable protest. Yet out of the pockets of every Nebraskan are coming these tremendous amounts of dollars and apparently we have no control