

April 8, 1980

LB 740

SENATOR CLARK: The bill is advanced. The next bill is LB 740, the constitutional amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 740 introduced by Senator Reutzel. (Read.) The bill was first read on January 14, referred to Constitutional Revision, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments pending, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. President, members of the body, I move the adoption of the committee amendments. The amendments were adopted at the committee hearing. As originally drafted the bill would have authorized the Legislature to provide a property tax exemption for the increased value of the residence resulting from improvements designed primarily for energy conservation and as originally drafted the maximum period of the exemption authorized was five years from the date of installation or completion of the improvements. Now the amendments will extend the allowable exemption to any real property which increases in value because of the energy conservation improvements, not just an individual residence, so businesses come under it. The five year limitation period is also deleted as we didn't feel that this should be enshrined in the Constitution. A lot of people have a problem with putting a specific number into the Constitution. Furthermore, the committee amendments specify that the exemption granted is to be upon such terms, conditions and restrictions as may be prescribed by the implementing legislation by this body and this would allow the Legislature to define eligible improvements, determine the amount in duration of the exemption and provide such procedures for implementation of the exemption as it deems appropriate. In short, the committee amendments clean up the bill considerably and I would move the adoption of the amendments and then I would explain the bill.

SENATOR CLARK: The question before the House is the adoption of the committee amendments. Senator Wesely. Senator Kelly, do you want to talk on the committee amendments?

SENATOR KELLY: That would be fine, Mr. Speaker. A question of Senator Reutzel. I notice in this handout that Nebraska is not listed. Is that significant?

SENATOR REUTZEL: Senator Kelly, at this point we don't have any legislation dealing with energy in this manner.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Haberman.