

into the state aid formula is not in our best interest. I would be willing to take this indirectly to the public schools because every school is eligible, Class ones through the sixes, to make those kinds of renovations they have to make in order to more efficiently use the energy which they constantly use throughout the year and Nebraska is a place most of all where we should be more energy minded than we are in terms of our heating and air conditioning costs. So I submit to you that this is open to every school. Everyone has an opportunity once they have made their audit and know what they are about and there will be sufficient money in here to help them and, again, it will be a reduction on their own local cost because this money comes from the severance tax and the matching funds, some of them from the federal funds and some local match which is outside. I think it is a great device and I hope that you do not accept Senator Remmers' amendment. Take a look at the one I am going to offer and see if there isn't a better choice.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell, do you wish to be recognized? We have got Senator Newell and then Senator Remmers. You are the last one anyway, so we can proceed now... The Chair recognizes Senator Remmers to close on his motion to adopt the amendment. Senator Remmers, do you wish to close on your motion to adopt the amendment?

SENATOR REMMERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, we have heard a lot of pleading for compromises. We have heard a lot of comments about no one being concerned about saving energy. I don't know where anyone can get the idea that the Legislature, that the members of this Legislature are the only members that are concerned, only people concerned about energy. School boards are concerned about energy. Patrons are concerned about energy and many school boards have been doing something about it. So when you say every school is eligible that is no longer true because some of them probably already made the necessary provisions that would probably be allowed under the grant system. So everyone would not be eligible. I think it is just a question of who makes the decision. We are not saying that we are not going to spend money for energy. I think the school boards will continue to spend money for energy. I think they will continue changing their buses over to diesel powered buses, to weatherize their buildings. The money goes into the state aid program. It can still be used for energy and the schools will be using it for that. They are also concerned about energy just as well as we are here in the Legislature. I think it is a question of government help versus self-help and I think the Great Father in Washington