

amazed...

PRESIDENT: Your time is expired.

SENATOR DECAMP: ...that Senator Remmers would want to kill the highest producing return on investment that we've come across with any program in this state.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Senator. Chair recognizes Senator Wesely. Motion is to indefinitely postpone LB 126.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. President, members, I, too, would rise in opposition to the kill motion and appreciate the support for the bill from Senator Withem and Senator DeCamp. Obviously LB 126 means a great deal to those of us who have co-sponsored it. I think there are like 14 or 15 or us that have co-sponsored LB 126, including Senator Haberman. We've co-sponsored the bill because this is a program that unlike what Senator Remmers has characterized, it is indeed a success. I've passed out a handout. Among the different things included in the handout is an article from the Lincoln Journal, from back about a month ago or so, it doesn't have a date, but I believe it was back in about December, praising this program as one example of where government works. I truly think that Senator Remmers is out of step on this issue. I know he's always opposed it. I understand that. I know in your own individual school districts maybe this isn't the best program. But, as Senator Withem said, we've got to look, as state senators, at the whole state situation. As a state we have to understand that we have many, many school buildings across the state, school buildings that are older, are not energy efficient, and have to be dealt with. The one way we have been able to address this problem is to set up this fund, direct the money into these buildings and have them weatherized and save money now and save money for the future, an investment return for far, far into the future that you cannot top in any other way. I've handed out, also, a comparison between the permanent school fund and the weatherization program and return on investment. Let me immediately point out that the 16.4 percent return on the weatherization money is from '81 to '84, and the 7.8 percent figure for the permanent school fund is from '76 to '82. So the years do not match up. The reason is we haven't been able to get more recent figures for that permanent school fund. But, nevertheless, it gives you a taste of the