

long time and the savings are going to be there for that length of time. This is a long-term investment. It is a capital investment and it is a high rate of return investment and that's why this is a long-term proposal that has been successful and supported. As Senator Remmers said, many editorials have been written in support of the program. Much support has been there from the teachers and the school boards across the State of Nebraska to continue the program. I think Senator Remmers has got a concern. It's been there for a long time and I respect his interest in the issue. I don't want to raise any doubts about his sincerity, but I can tell you that the energy issue, though not a major issue today in our state and in our nation, is still a problem. It has not been resolved. We still import over 90 percent of our energy in this state and our nation too, is suffering from our high rate of imports of energy. Everything we can do to conserve energy, whether in our public buildings or in our private homes is going to help our nation remain strong. When we import, that puts us in a vulnerable position. It makes us subject to high prices. It makes us subject to cut off a supply. It makes us vulnerable and everything we can do to save our energy is going to be of benefit to us all and it seems to me that this bill, this program has done that. It has proven itself. The rate of return that you have is identification enough of that and it will continue for the next three years if this bill is passed and continued. Now one thing I'd like to chide Senator Remmers a little bit about, he talks about the fact that of the 5 million going to the school weatherization fund, about \$500,000 is sent to the Nebraska Energy Resource fund and then some other money is sent to administer the school weatherization program and for tuition assistance for math and science teachers. And correct me if I'm wrong, Senator Remmers, but didn't you pass that bill to put the \$100,000 into the tuition assistance for math and science teachers? So if we are losing a little bit of that money of the severance tax money, part of the reason is an amendment that Senator Remmers put on the bill a couple of years ago. So that must have been a good project, I'm sure, Senator Remmers, but let me also say...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...that some of the other projects, to let you know what that other money is going for if that is a concern of yours and I think perhaps it might be, you'll see