

that they have served the function that they were intended to. When we started off with tax credits we were intending to develop the solar industry. We're trying to develop solar energy in this state and we're going to do that by providing an incentive to use solar energy. Well now that it's finally doing what we intended, the solar industry is developing. We starting to use solar energy. It is starting to happen and now we want to take away the credit because it's costing money. Well it's costing money because it is accomplishing its goal. It's encouraging the development of solar energy. We shouldn't be surprised by the fact that there is a revenue loss. There is a revenue loss because solar energy has become something that is acceptable and it's partly acceptable because of the incentive provided through this tax credit. Take away that credit and you really make it much more difficult to sell the solar energy products and thus, to lower the price because as you produce more you can lower your overall costs and the whole problem is repeated in solar energy. If the credit in this state and the federal credit is not extended you will see a collapse of the solar industry. Now we subsidize the electrical industry, we subsidize all kinds of other energy projects, but we are so afraid of solar energy and subsidizing it. We're asking for a fair shake for alternative energy. It has served its function. It is estimated that if we continue the credits it can account for a significant amount of imported oil and reduce our dependence on foreign oil sources which I think makes us vulnerable in our national defense and it has been effective so far and will be continuing to be effective even more so in the future if we continue the credit. We're asking to remove the issue from this bill so we can deal with it separately with another bill, LB 297, and move on with this legislation minus the solar tax credit issue. If you want to talk solar tax credit, let's talk about it independently and separately from the revenue matters before us.

SENATOR LAMB: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, once again Senator Wesely parades before us the solar energy tax credit. The first parade would have extended the credit till the year 1992. This next parade is a little shorter. It would extend the credit as I understand it to 1987. I have visited with Senator Wesely about this a few minutes ago. Senator Wesely indicated to