

May 17, 1985

LB 722

CLERK: 27 ayes, 7 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of that portion of the committee amendments.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: The amendment passes.

CLERK: Madam President, the next Section is Section 40. That has to do with the Nebraska Energy Office.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: The Chair recognizes Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, this is a thirty some thousand reduction, \$36,000. Essentially the only general fund that is going into Nebraska Energy Office, essentially it provides about half the salary or a portion of the salary for a deputy and for the director. The position of the committee was that the probability that other cash funds and federal funds could provide these funds, and that it may mean that some position would, somewhere along the line, may not be funded. I'm not sure of that. But in any event, this was on the list provided from the Governor's Office, code agency. I would assume that the Governor's Office felt that this \$36,000 was not necessary, then we ought to accept it.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: The Chair recognizes Senator Remmers.

SENATOR REMMERS: Madam Speaker and Senators, I feel this is a mistake to try to save \$36,000 here on a multimillion dollar program that would leave the State Legislature without any oversight over the Energy Office. I realize on the federal level they are going to be cutting back probably on the energy grants. But in 126 we have an energy program that is going to go for quite a few years. I believe we set the termination of that at 1990 or '96, ten years down the road. I feel it would be a mistake to not have some legislative oversight over that department which would happen if you don't put some money into the general fund for this program. So I would urge you to not support this cut in the budget. Thank you.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DECAMP: Mr. President, I agree with Senator Remmers. I would just ask the body this, pick an agency that deals with something as important as energy. And remember just a few years ago that is where the action was.