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Energy...

Continued from Page 1

DeCamp said the \$200-million program could be established in a couple of months if someone such as the governor were to back the legislation.

The \$200 million to finance the program would not be needed immediately, but would be added to the program in increments, he said.

Even at a cost of \$200 million, the state will come out ahead, DeCamp said. Money spent for weatherizing homes and businesses will be returned eventually to the state through taxes, he said.

The loans to be made available to business and individuals will come from the sale of bonds.

"The state can't be liable for even one penny," DeCamp said.

The Nebraska Energy Conservation Finance Council would consist of nine council members, including three directors of state offices and six public members of the Nebraska Mortgage Finance Fund.

Council members would not be paid a salary, but would have the power to hire necessary staff members.

HOWEVER, DECAMP said he feels that the proposed programs can be carried out without hiring other employees.

The job of the council would be to ensure that technical information on energy conservation reaches the public.

Conservation measures would include insulating houses and providing for more efficient heating and cooling systems in existing buildings.

The issuance of bonds under the bill does not need to comply with other state laws regulating the issuance of bonds, according to the bill.

Electric Companies providing 750 million kilowatt hours or more of electricity per year must make funds available to lend customers for energy conservation.

The reason for such action, according to the bill, is that it would be cheaper to make buildings more fuel efficient than to build a new power plant because of increased demands. Loan periods may be no shorter than three years or longer than 20 and the amount to be loaned may not exceed \$3,000.

The bill, unless extended by the Legislature, would be repealed Jan. 1, 1986.

ANOTHER PORTION of the act, the State Energy Office, would fall under the jurisdiction of the governor. The office's chief executive officer will be appointed by the governor and approved by the Legislature.

The director's job, according to the bill, is to coordinate all energy related activities in the state.

The director's other responsibilities are to keep abreast of changing energy prob-

lems; to collect and analyze data in order to make predictions on energy demands for the state; to recommend energy policies and conservation measures to the governor and the Legislature, and then implement the changes when they are ordered.

In order to do his job more efficiently, the director would collect statistics monthly from energy suppliers in the state and report to the governor at least once every three months on energy consumption trends.

The Nebraska Energy Efficiency Standards Act also required by the bill, would provide minimum standards for new buildings.

THE ADOPTED STANDARDS would set up a maximum amount of heat loss, measured in British Thermal Units, for each new building. Maximum standards of heat-gain in air conditioned buildings also will be set.

The energy office would publish manuals for use by architects and contractors outlining the state's new building standards. Violation of the building standards would become a misdemeanor under the new law.

A builder's liability for constructing the building to meet state standards would extend for four years.

Building guidelines are not meant to be inflexible, the bill said. Any builder may appeal to the State Energy Office if the contractor can show that his design will be as energy efficient as required by the state.

In the event of a fuel shortage, which could affect the importation of food into the state, the governor may declare a state of emergency.

However, the governor must prove that a resource crisis would pose a threat of imminent and severe damage, injury, or death.

IN A VITAL RESOURCE emergency, the governor would be empowered to establish a system of distribution of energy or the vital resource. He also could curtail or regulate public and private transportation to relieve an emergency.

Also included in the bill is a measure to ensure the development of wind and solar power.

Each city and county must submit, within six months of the passage of the act, a proposal designed to encourage the location of energy conservation enterprises within its boundaries.

A portion of the proposed bill calls for a state appropriation of almost \$1 million to go to the energy office to be used in a federal program of weatherization assistance for low-income persons.

The act covers all aspects of energy, including traffic regulation.

The act would change regulations concerning use of state roads by oversized vehicles. A single over-sized vehicle would only be required to have a flashing yellow light instead of an escort vehicle as presently required by state law.

The proposed legislation also allows for left hand turns on red lights in some cities.

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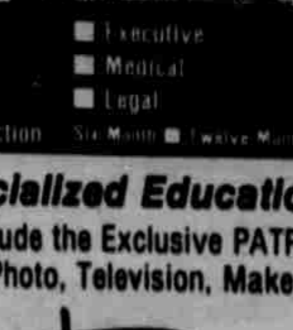
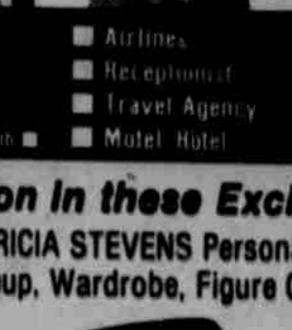
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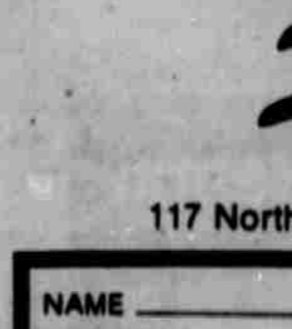


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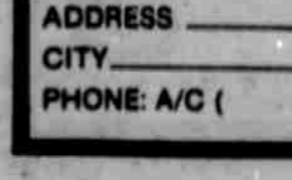
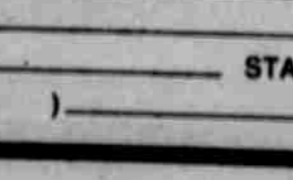
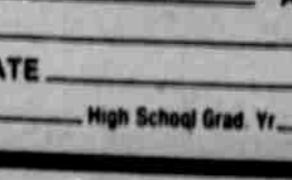
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