

state funds now because we didn't let the federal funds be used for that. I don't know. Senator De Camp, maybe you could tell me. Johnny, have we tore down signs that we didn't need to tear down under federal regulations and who's footing the bill?

SENATOR DE CAMP: Oh, good grief. Let me think. They have been tearing down signs since Ladybird went zipping across the country and decided to beautify it all a long time ago. And then they did it in different states in different quantities. You had so much state funds and then so much federal funds and sometimes I think it got out of control. Some states, New York for example, saw what it was doing and they imposed a moratorium and have gotten away with it quite successfully. South Dakota at this present time, is having a full-scale war on it. Wall Drug, for example, and everybody knows about Wall Drug; how do you know about Wall Drug? Because you drove down the road and saw a sign. Wall Drug is telling you and telling the federal government, hey, tourism in South Dakota is very dependent on highway signs. That's how we say we're here and they are trying to find how far they can go. They have been holding special hearings and meetings with the feds. on this issue, and its this information I want to check out and find out what can be done. Nebraska was one of the most enthusiastic in terms of tearing down signs, for whatever reasons. So we had last year a plan that would have spent about a million dollars on it. Okay, we had, I think it was \$250,000 state and the rest was federal. So to resolve the problem I merely cut the state portion to almost, well not almost nothing, to a very insignificant amount I felt and felt that that would prevent a lot of highway sign destruction. Now Senator Warner raised a related issue, a related issue but understand what that issue was because I addressed that last year and thought I had pretty well corrected it and I think it did and that issue was what about where our new road is going to go? And of necessity they have to take out a certain sign to construct that new road. Well Senator Warner is suggesting to us that because of new road construction we've had to tear down some signs and therefore they needed some money from that and we've had to use a few state dollars to do that. I concede, I don't know how many dollars it is, we may have had to use a few state dollars to do that for new road construction, a perfectly legitimate purpose, but I think the overall benefits of not tearing down a million dollars worth of signs were much greater than the few dollars we had to spend of state money during road construction to tear down a few. Did you listen to any of that, Senator Keyes? It was your question. Do you really care? Well, anyway, that's kind of it. We spent a lot money tearing down signs, probably more than a lot of other states. There may be alternative methods to stop it or even to have a more organized or systematic method of preserving signs or even erecting new ones. This is what I'm trying to check out.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion? Would you want to close on this, Senator De Camp?

SENATOR DE CAMP: Not really.

PRESIDENT: Alright, I'll take your word on that. Record your vote. Have you all voted? Record.