

April 1, 1980

LB 873

SENATOR SCHMIT: Well, Senator, I just would like to caution you that it is impossible to deal with a state statute that deals only with eleven miles of road. Somewhere in this state there are other miles of road that are going to be impacted and I would hope that you will research it so you do not have a far greater impact than you or Senator Hoagland intends. Perhaps you are reassured. I am not.

SENATOR KEYES: I am assured that this will not add, unless the Highway Commission approves, there will not be one mile. This would allow them to improve that eleven miles of road at a lesser standard than what they have in mind to do, and it is still up to them. If they don't want to do it, that is their part. It could add roads in the park in Bellevue...or Bellwood someplace if you could get it a something scenic in Bellevue, or in Bellwood.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, members of the Unicameral, this is the bill I was talking about the other day with the scenic road that my friend thinks that a cornfield is very scenic, and the point that I was attempting to make in that...bringing to light LB 873 was succinctly stated by the Highway Commission that gas tax money would now be spent on these roads, and it appears in the eleventh hour we would have an amendment that would do away with the bill. This bill has come clear across on the basis that it was needed, major amendments in each step of the way to water the bill down from general reading to Select File and now Final Reading we get another amendment that waters this down to whether it is a choice of the Commission or the Department of what they want to do. Now it may be, and I bring this to everybody's attention, that if we accept the Keyes amendment and we pass LB 873, we have taken away from the Games and Parks Commission their ability to decide where these roads are going to be. I oppose the Keyes amendment constructively that this bill should be killed on Final and start all over again, because if we want to preserve scenic roads and we should get the money up and we should talk forthright of making and preserving scenic roads, we should not mix up a scenic road with a farm to market road, Senator Keyes. We should not mix these up. One is economic and one is aesthetic. There can be interchanges. Now remember in this bill we also allow the Department to have dual designation of roads which, in effect, could make I-80 also a scenic, recreational, historical road. This may be good. It may not be good. But I will not support the Keyes amendment, and it is based