

February 28, 1991 LB 699

like to say we are for, will be that further down the road. I support Senator Rasmussen's motion to bring the bill to the floor.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Schmit. Senator Pirsch.

SENATOR PIRSCH: Thank you, Madam President. Senator Rasmussen, you probably have heard I'm a pretty conservative senator in this body, but I want to tell you that I support your motion to raise LB 699 and I think that it is time that we put our money where our mouths have been all through the discussion on 1059 and even your opponents agree that we need innovative and radical improvements in education and I feel strongly that LB 1059 inadvertently provided a windfall to the Highway Trust Fund. We tried to stop that money from going into the Trust Fund, in fact, we tried it two times, Senator Moore, and there just weren't enough votes to amend it out and the Highway Trust Fund was the beneficiary of that. And there are many in this body who think that's a wonderful place to put extra money. But you know, you new senators, it's a whole different ball game this year. There's enough of you to reassess what that money should be used for and you can change that inequity. I firmly agree with Senator Rasmussen, what is yours, you cannot steal, and I voted to keep the sales tax promise for education out of the highway funds. I support Senator Rasmussen's bill, LB 699. Those 1059 proceeds should go to education. Highway Trust Funds are more than adequate without that little bit, and it is a little bit compared to the big picture. And we need those innovative bold initiatives in education for our children in Nebraska. I support raising LB 699.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Will.

SENATOR WILL: Thank you, Madam President, members of the body, I rise to support Senator Rasmussen's motion to raise LB 699 from the Education Committee. I'm a cosponsor of that bill and have no doubt about its merits but what I'd like to visit with you just very shortly is the funding mechanism. We have a number of taxes that are earmarked in the State of Nebraska. Two major tax sources we have that are earmarked for roads are the gas tax and the sales tax on motor vehicles. The gas tax floats and is adjusted according to the budget that we set for our roads. The sales tax on motor vehicles though simply comes in at the rate that motor vehicles are sold in the State of Nebraska and then is forwarded on to the Highway Trust Fund. I