

February 13, 1979

LB 112

indefinitely postpone LB 112. Record the vote.

CLERK: 29 ayes, 2 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

FRESIDENT: Motion carries. Debate ceases. Senator Dworak, you may close on your motion to indefinitely postpone.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, I keep hearing Senator Kremer talk about just a few vehicles. That is all this affects, just a few vehicles. That is okay because we are not talking about very many units, but then on the other hand he says it is going to solve our shortage of hopper car problem. I don't think we are going to solve the shortage of hopper cars with just a few vehicles. If, in fact, this bill is intended to solve the problem with shortage of hopper cars and the fact that many railroads are not offering services to smaller communities in the state, then we are not talking about a few vehicles, we are talking about a lot of vehicles and so I don't think we can have it both ways. I also think in discussing this bill in the area of taxation is important. I have always been an advocate of users fees. I have always been an advocate of those people who cause the damage, those people who are using the roads are those people who should pay for it. This particular concept is not even approached in this bill as it stands right now. Maybe there are other bills coming forward this session to approach this particular problem and if that is so as the case, then I think maybe a bracket idea would be a good idea. Because Senator Marvel does not think it is a good idea, I think that is one man's opinion. I think the Highway Department has been very specific in its testimony before the Appropriations Committee this year in that trucks are the units on the highways that cause the damage to the highways. Mr. Coolidge, our State Department of Engineer, stated that very concisely and very clearly, that the damage primarily is caused by trucks. It always sort of amuses me when I see the signs on the back of trucks indicating how much tax they pay. I think similar signs should be on cars. I see a couple of cars out in the parking lot, in our parking lot that could probably have a sign indicating how much tax they pay and it might be relatively close to what those trucks pay and those cars are not driven for profit in any way. I think also the comparison between taxation on railroads and trucks is really a comparison of apples and oranges. Railroads do not operate on tax supported beds. The rails are not paid for by the taxpayers. The trucks do operate on tax supported facilities. The highways are paid by taxpayers. I think this Legislature representing all the people in the State