

March 16, 1979

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SENATOR CULLAN: I would suppose that would be correct, yes.

SENATOR MARESH: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Haberman. Senator Keyes, do you wish to speak to the bill?

SENATOR KEYES: This is the bill we are talking here.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Technically we are speaking to the committee amendments. The committee amendments are the bill.

SENATOR KEYES: Become the bill, yes. I would like to ask Senator Cullan just a couple of simple questions. Senator Cullan, why is it that you want to set up another committee within the Highway Department to do this?

SENATOR CULLAN: Well initially it appeared to me to be when I started working on railroad crossing safety devices almost two and a half years ago, just very shortly after I was elected, Senator Keyes, I found it very disturbing that every time I called the Department of Roads about a crossing device they gave me a different guy and it appeared to me that there was a lack of organization within that department as to who is really responsible. Since the new director has come aboard I think he has made this one of his priorities and I think those responsibilities are clear within his own department now so this change may not be necessary. I think the new director has specifically assigned people to this and I think they know what they are supposed to be doing now.

SENATOR KEYES: Senator Cullan, if creating a new board or a new group within the highway fund group, if a creating a new group in there is going to cost more money I absolutely am going to oppose it. Now I have found that in Sarpy County and I always speak of Sarpy County that when I got the Highway Department and our county commissioners, the town, the city officials and the railroad together and they decided that we needed crossarms, they decided that we needed lights. We got both of them and it didn't take long to get them and I could see no reason why we need another board. The railroads kind of drew back a little bit but the railroad came through and it was even a bankrupt railroad and so we do and you can get it with the present system and I can't understand why we would need to create another board. I will stop