

March 16, 1979

LB 42

SENATOR NICHOL: Then the other portion that I was concerned about was the taxing you intend to take out of the gas tax. What investigation was done on that, Senator Cullan?

SENATOR CULLAN: I'm not sure I understand your question, Senator.

SENATOR NICHOL: In other words, did you want a certain allotment out of the gas tax each year for this purpose, such as we are attempting to earmark certain things out of the gas tax now, for example, the building of an alcohol plant. Was it your intention to tap this fund each year such as that to carry on this program?

SENATOR CULLAN: Senator, under the current system we have the grade crossing protection fund which is state funded. \$30,000 a month is automatically from the gas tax, goes into this fund. Now that fund has not been completely used and one of the reasons I am increasing the share is because state funds are available because we are not completely using our state funds and more federal funds are available, so this bill does not change that gas tax appropriation and I do not envision that this bill would ever require that. So I think we are going to have a sufficient amount of state and federal funds not to have to increase an appropriation as a result of this bill.

SENATOR NICHOL: Thank you, Senator Cullan. Mr. Chairman, my only remark would be that I, too, am hesitant about creating another commission. I understand that this could be under the Department of Roads but it doesn't look like the Department of Roads have had much to say so far about this bill, and I would like to hear more from them before deciding on this particular bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: I wonder if the Sergeant at Arms would mind going upstairs and doing something with the wind. That must have had something to do with the celebration this morning. Senator Merz, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR MERZ: Question.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The question has been called for. Are you ready to cease debate? All those in favor vote aye... Are there five hands? Okay. All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Would you like to cease debate? We need 25 votes. Clerk, record the vote.