

January 28, 1980

LB 499

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Dworak now moves to amend. On page 3, line 15 strike "State Visitors' Promotion Cash Fund" and insert "Highway Trust Fund". Strike sections 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15. In section 10, line 12 strike "one percent" and insert "three percent". That is offered by Senator Dworak.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President and colleagues, we have got a serious problem in this state in that we don't have enough money for the roads. I don't know how much the roads benefit the tourist industry, but I would think quite a bit. I would think that all these out of state visitors that are coming into Nebraska certainly would look at the quality of our roads in passing through Nebraska, or whether they take the Kansas route or the northern route. I think the taxpayers generally across this state through the usury fees are doing quite a bit for the motel and hotel industry already. So I think it makes a lot of sense to solve two problems here. If we're going to raise the tax on motels and hotels, which this Legislature now seems inclined to do, so be it, but let's put the money where it is really needed, and that is in our highway trust fund. Now we are going to be faced with this problem this year and coming years and it is a serious problem. We have declining usage of gasoline. We have increased cost of gasoline and we have tremendous inflation, and we are not able to keep up with the construction of roads. Now I can't think of a better use for this three percent surcharge, or sales tax, or whatever, than to put it into that highway trust fund, and I think then we will be able to support and help the motel industry by giving them better roads to deliver their people to utilize their product. I urge the adoption of this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, I move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: All right, the question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. All those in favor of ceasing debate vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? The motion is to cease debate on the Dworak amendment to LB 499. Have you voted? How many are excused? Just one? Four. Senator Koch, do you want to do anything about it? Do you want to cease debate?

SENATOR KOCH: How many are excused, Mr. President?

PRESIDENT: Pardon?