

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. President and members of the body, and I certainly hope the Government Committee is listening. I would hate to have this motion fail. 619 has been up before us a couple days now. We have seen by the committee amendments we have exempted mail carriers. We have exempted emergency vehicles. We have exempted medical workers, medical workers that can show need. We have amendments up here today which exempted handicapped, which exempted the elderly, the senior citizens and there are more amendments coming. I think that demonstrates the lack of support for the bill. I think a lot of us have a lot of reservations concerning the intent of the bill, otherwise we wouldn't have these continual motions. Now we have been inundated with material put together by Senator Newell's staff on this bill. Some of it I somewhat question. We have a pretty little map here that is somewhat misleading and it shows the states which have proposed legislation and states which have banned studded tires, and I think it is a little bit misleading when you look at the states around Nebraska and you see that all the states around us have not outlawed studded tires, but yet it has proposed in some and I think that is an attempt to influence our decision here. I guess I get a little bit concerned...go back to the Omaha sales tax. Omaha has a problem and the city comes down and says the only way to solve it is through an act of the Legislature and give us more sales tax. Now they have got chuck holes, and so the way to solve Omaha's chuck hole problems is to ban studded tires statewide. But no one has suggested that we do away with the salt on the streets and Milan Bish who was before Committee on Committees last week, an appointment to the Highway Commission, Milan Bish stated that in his opinion that the salt does more... has more corrosive effect on the highways than the studded tires do. Personally, I think the overloaded trucks and the heavy loads that we are taking across the highways now propose...do far greater damage than studded snow tires. I think it is a safety factor. Lot of people won't even drive without the studded tires. It's a fact that studded tires are decreasing so if there is damage to the roads because of the studded tires, that is decreasing also. No one suggested that we do away with salting of the roads, but we have had suggestion after suggestion of exemptions. And even the committee bill itself puts exemptions in. Now if studded tires provide no safety factor and if they do so much damage and they have no safety factor whatsoever or only three percent if we believe some of the handouts we have had, from one to three percent, then why have we