

there is a great deal of dissatisfaction right today with the State Department of Roads because they carved up the interstate highways, and the reason they carved up those interstate highways are simply because they had to bring the levels down to where they could have a level highway again, and so they had to cut off the top part of the highway, those areas where the studded snow tires had not created the grooves, and they had to bring that down to make it level, and therein lies the problem. You see, the situation is simply this, with those ruts we get hydroplaning, which is far more common than the ice that we are worried about. Hydroplaning is water in those grooves that are created by the studded snow tires, and that creates problems far more and far greater percentage of the time. Now let's talk about usage for a second, too, because we have to remember that we are no longer using studded snow tires as we once did. Over forty percent of the people of the state used studded snow tires. We are now down to approximately ten percent of the people of the state using studded snow tires, and they do almost the same amount of damage as when forty percent used them, and herein lies the problem we have. Studded snow tires, along with salt, and along with sand, create additional problems because we take the top layer, which is oil and film from cars and travel, and so forth, and studded snow tires grounds that top layer off, that plus the ice...that plus the...not the ice but the salt tears away at the roads, and it creates even a greater problem than salt alone would be because there would have been without studded snow tires there would be that film, that productive film. I passed out a handout which shows to most of you how much more wear we are going to get out of the interstate highways if we do not have studded snow tires. This is not an Omaha problem alone. This is a statewide problem. The Federal Highway Commission is encouraging states to do away with studded snow tires because there are no net safety benefits. They are a luxury item which we can no longer afford, and they are a luxury for ten percent of the people that use them. The only time studded snow tires are any great benefit, even with the present ice situations which happens only three percent of the time a year, is if they are on all four tires. They are not on all four tires. They are only on the hind tires, the rear tires. This is not an Omaha problem, because the Federal Highway Administration is concerned about this issue and so is the State Highway Commission. The State Highway Commission is unanimous in its opposition to studded snow tires. It unanimously favors the ban on snow tires, and why would all those urban repre.... rural representatives on the commission if it is just an