

March 13, 1980

LB 361

that will be planned and directed toward known established problems that exist. I do not consider 361 or LB 722 as competitive bills. Either or both could be passed because they are not in conflict with one another to that extent but I think the prudent thing to do if any adjustment is to be made on the per gallon tax basis is not to exceed the one cent as the bill now stands from the committee amendment and I would hope that we would not resort to just an arbitrary increase without really taking care of some of the other needs. Speaking particularly to the state highway need, when you go back to the allocation formula that was mentioned between the state and the counties and the cities, the original proposal was a sixty-twenty-twenty split rather than the fifty-three and a third, twenty-three and a third and twenty-three and a third. That was changed in 1969 when the concept of issuance of bonds was proposed and the state's share of the allocation was reduced proportionately on the assumption that bonds were going to be issued. Well, bonds were not and that is neither here nor there now but the facts are that the state never had the revenue that was projected or expected to be acquired to meet the state road program needs. You couple that along with the inflationary impact that road construction has and we sit today with forty-six percent of the state's roads below standards. The most important link we have between our communities throughout the state is the state highway system. Unless the investment that the taxpayers have made in that state highway system is protected, it becomes in time an exceedingly expensive to rebuild and redo many of these roads because of lack of adequate funds from maintaining for traffic and I would hope that through the discussion today that if the body wishes to adopt the one cent at this point, that is fine, but that beyond that the final solution would not be arrived at until 722 comes up which would be in about a week or week after next I think is when it is proposed to be on the agenda, thereabouts.

SENATOR CLARK PRESIDING

SENATOR CLARK: Your time is up. I hope it coincides with your speech.

SENATOR WARNER: My time is up. I hope it coincides with the speech. I would never disagree with the Speaker, the Chair.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Senator Warner, if you were not out of time