

March 13, 1980

LB 361

I am going to ask you a question, and on answering that question, you may use some of my ten minutes because I am always very short winded and only talk two or three minutes. I don't know enough to talk ten. Senator Warner, Senator Warner, you talk about the percentage that goes to the state and to the county and to the cities, would you support legislation that would say that the tax on gasoline, because gasoline is mainly consumed on county roads, there is not so much of it anymore consumed on long distance travel, if we were to say that two cents on gasoline would go to the county and the cities and the two cents on diesel fuel would go to the state highway system because the state highway carry the big trucks that cause the roads to cost an awfully lot more such as eight, ten, twelve inches of concrete or asphalt, would you object if we amended the bill to do that?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Keyes, I think that one of the things we tried to establish back in '69 that ought to be retained, prior to '69 whenever time the gasoline taxes were adjusted, diesel fuel taxes were adjusted, highway user fees were adjusted, there was a different, a new allocation formula each time and it was a maze that no one could follow. So what was adopted by the Legislature in '69 was single allocation formula with all money going into the trust fund and from there to the allocation fund and I would strongly support the retention of all highway user revenue being placed in the same procedure that we now have to the trust fund, the allocation fund and then in the case of the Highway Department, the highway cash fund, as a much easier way for the public to know how those tax funds are being used, how they are being distributed, and if we come up with a variety of alternatives with one portion being used, one type of gas tax going one place and one the other, as far as type of fuel is concerned. Now I think you can make some adjustments in the distribution of the pot perhaps but I wouldn't want to see it done on the basis of the type of fuel that was being burned.

SENATOR KEYES: Senator Warner, I believe like you do that since 1969 when the formula was figured out how to build roads and finance roads in Nebraska that the formula was fair. Today we live in a different atmosphere, we live in a different times because of the fact that gasoline is \$1.25, \$1.30 a gallon. We are cutting down on our driving and yet still today we are increasing the trucks that go on the highway because of the shortage of railroad cars. We need additional money for our state highways and diesel fuel is one source of revenue, tax on diesel

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