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and other people accused me of being very parochial, looking out strictly for the interest of my district and perhaps not for the rest of the state and I am just going to get up and tell you I am going to continue to be very parochial and that is why I am going to support Senator Landis' amendment because Senator Landis' amendment sends some money to Omaha and Lincoln and you might wonder why is that parochial? Because in this particular case in the conservation of energy and in improving mass transit in Omaha and Lincoln happens to be in the best interest of western Nebraska as well, because if we can cut consumption of energy in the cities in this country and in the state by improving mass transit, then there is going to be more fuel for selfish farmers like myself and others who do want to have enough fuel to be able to operate our farms in the summers. So I think this is a good program. I am going to support Senator Landis' amendment and I would urge you to do likewise.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Lewis, do you wish to speak on this motion?

SENATOR LEWIS: Mr. President, it is good to see that my good friend Senator Cullan and I are back on the same side again and I appreciate his position. You know the issue that we are talking about here has been one that is not new. Seven years ago in '73 a couple of us tried to get that position taken at that time in terms of energy conservation and those issues. Senator Warner earlier made the comment that his number one concern was the tearing away from the Highway Trust Fund and that argument was made by Better Nebraska, a group that is involved in this issue that most of you know who they are. The important part for us to look at now is the number one desire to raise the gas tax to start with is because of the deplorable situation with the roads. It is a tough political decision to do that anyway. I think one of the things that has helped, and helped immensely, has been the fact that we have gone to some mass transportation rubber tire system in this state. I think that is saving a great deal of money on wear and tear of roads. We are saving some energy, as Senator Cullan says, so it can be used elsewhere. At the time when we first discussed that in 1973, energy wasn't and fuel wasn't the problem it is now. I think the concept is good, and the second best part about the concept is a number of us heard a bill to see that we start putting more money into rural areas for transportation. I voted for that. I think it is important. I believe there is a direct correlation between mass transit