

March 31, 1980

LB 361

SENATOR NICHOL: Do you mean cash?

SENATOR KEYES: I mean a penny's gas tax. How much is going on?

SENATOR NICHOL: Well we are sitting right now, ten and a half cents a gallon and the amendment says we would go to twelve cents a gallon which would be a penny and a half more than we are sitting on now.

SENATOR KEYES: We are going to twelve cents a gallon.

SENATOR NICHOL: Yes.

SENATOR KEYES: Well I want to tell the senators that will take time to listen that I sent down to the Highway Department to send me up a statement to how much money has been collected in 1976, 1977, '78 and '79 and when the Highway Department comes up and gives some of you the figure that they are losing money, that they are not taking in as much money as they took in before, either they are telling you a falsehood or they are telling me one because in 1976 the total amount of money taken in from the motor vehicle gas tax, the special fuel tax receipts, the motor vehicle registration fees, the motor vehicle sales tax receipts and the various rates, let me tell you, in 1976 they took in one hundred thirty eight million, four hundred and some thousand. In 1979 they took in \$158,400,000. Now that just adds up to \$20,000,000 more money. So when they tell you that they are not taking in more money, they are showing you that they don't take in more money on certain things maybe but they are not coming out with the full story. I have got a thousand people in Sarpy County that are raising h-e-l-l because of their taxes and if you think I am going to vote to put one more penny gas tax, if they have to ride down the roads as Senator Schmit said, on horseback, it is all right with me but there is one thing about it. I am not going to vote to increase taxes in a year where the interest rate just went up a quarter of a percent yesterday and a half of a percent in other banks, when the price of corn has dropped almost six cents a bushel, beans and wheat this year and you are going to ask me to vote to increase taxes on people that can't pay them, let's analyze this situation and find out who has got money in their pockets. I know one senator stood up and said that they need money. Everybody needs money. We need money for everything. I need money for a new car. I have got a '72, driving it home. I haven't driven one that old in years but I am not spending the money and if we go ahead and increase taxes this year for anything, we are going to make a mistake and we are going to lose the confidence of the people of this state.