

indeed the income has gone up a fraction of a percent or a fraction of a percent of inflation and everything else. Now what I am telling you is at some point if you want to have roads in this state, and I guess I think as one government official that maybe the primary function of government is to provide law enforcement, communications and road system for transportation of the goods, a few fundamental things like that. Once you have paid for those things then you can talk about welfare and other things. All I am suggesting is that we are going to need now and in the future, one heck of a pot of money to finance the roads and this is the only thing, one of the only things for sure, where the user pays the tax. On every gallon of gasoline he pays some of the money and it is a major increase and it means some people are going to drive less because it costs more. So I urge you to adopt the amendment. I realize it is a tough amendment to adopt and the probabilities are very limited but officially you will have known you had the chance and a year or two or three, when the situation deteriorates to where you need tractors to pull you out of some of the pot holes, you are going to say, how did we ever reach this condition? I think the roads in this state are in far, far worse condition than the average person believes. I think the situation with respect to the roads is far more serious than anyone dreams in this Legislature. I urge you to adopt the amendment.

SENATOR CLARK: I don't know who wants to talk on this. I am going to call them by the lights we have on. If you don't want to talk, please turn your light off. Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I would just like to correct one impression that I think may be in error. My amendment is a two cent per gallon increase, not a two and a half percent. Senator DeCamp's is a nickel. I really have no great problem with that except that I do not think it is going to fly, Johnny. If I thought it would go I would support you and I probably will anyway but I do not think you can get a nickel. We are going to have a tough time getting the two cents probably. By the time we are talking here the price of gasoline will probably go up a nickel but in any case, just to be honest with you, two cents on the Schmit amendment, three more cents if you add the DeCamp amendment. That is the difference. I had a two cent amendment. John has a nickel amendment. Use your own judgment as to what you are going to vote for.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Koch, did you want to talk on the amendment?