

March 31, 1980

LB 722

SENATOR WARNER: Well that is assuming they both pass, Senator.

SENATOR HEFNER: Okay, thank you, Senator Warner. I would just like to point out to this body, I have heard Senator Warner say many times. If it works, don't fix it and I think we are changing the entire concept of taxing gasoline. This would be a 2% on the cost that the State Highway Department purchases this gasoline or special fuels. I think this is a politician's dream. It is a hidden tax. As the price of fuel goes up, so goes the tax money that we raise. Also in his bill it says that the State Board of Equalization would raise or lower this percentage as money is needed and I guess I would have to say that I believe we are passing the buck. I believe we are not facing up to the issues that we were elected to do. I think that if we need an increase in gasoline or special fuels tax that it should be brought to this body and vote on it. We know how much money that the State Highway Department needs. We know how much the counties and the villages need and this would only be fair to bring it to this body. As Senator Maresh brought up, now the cents per gallon are posted on the pump. If we adopt this method of taxing petroleum products we certainly will not post this on the pump because it will change just about every month. I think that the cents per gallon method has been working good and I would suggest to this body that we would leave it that way. It will take a lot more calculation to figure the new tax on gasoline and special fuels every month. I would say that if we adopt this concept it will be like giving your kid a credit card and tell him to go out and spend all he wants to spend. Also, it would require or perhaps require another form. I have been told by Senator Warner that they will just add another line but in taking it to the operations that I am involved in, I believe it would take another form and at the present time we are filling out approximately a half a dozen forms already. We are filling out a state form that called for ten and a half cents tax on gasoline. We are filling another form out for special fuels tax of ten and a half cents. We are filling out a form for four cents per gallon federal excise tax and of course then we are also filling out another form of those gallons that we exempt from gasohol and so I guess my question to this body is, how many more forms are you going to burden the small business man with.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Underneath the South balcony as a guest of Senator Chronister, was his daughter, Mrs. Michael (Janet) Casuscelli from Sioux City, Iowa. Are you still back there? Will you stand up so we can ...? Senator Kahle, do you wish to be recognized?