

April 9, 1980

LB 722

by this tax will go to the State Highway Department or the Trust Fund and none of it will go to the counties and the cities, am I right there?

SENATOR WARNER: LB 722 as it is drafted, the receipts from the excise tax go to the State Highway Department, but in addition, the amendment that I will offer of one cent per gallon will be split only with the counties and cities.

SENATOR KEYES: Okay, now when we talk about state highways that run through the town, and I heard this mentioned the other day that there are three or four main streets in Lincoln that run through the town that are state highways, will this money be used to repair and work on and keep and maintain those highways or streets, whichever you wish to call them from border to border?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Keyes, as I recall, the statute that determines responsibility, the state would have responsibility on a state highway system for the same number of lanes that the road is coming into a town. That is the way it has been...however it is since 1969, and you know there is no change in that one way or the other by this bill.

SENATOR KEYES: That will put money into that then like Dodge Street where it is four lanes clear out to twenty-five or thirty miles west of town, when it comes down into the City of Omaha, it is four lanes and this money would go to repair Dodge Street, four lanes of it, as I understand it. Now, Senator Warner, we also know that there are three or four ways that we raise money for the highways, for the state highways and the city streets and so forth and there are some avenues there that we haven't touched in ten years, haven't been increased in ten years. Now I am a little amazed at that that we don't do anything about that. Now the needs of the state, Senator Warner, the needs of the state are going to be decided by the State Highway Department, is that right? They will decide how many dollars we need to build the roads.

SENATOR WARNER: The needs of the state is determined by the appropriation level this Legislature will approve. That is what determines the dollar amount.

SENATOR KEYES: This Legislature will approve, say we want to put twenty million dollars into highways across the State of Nebraska, the Legislature would approve the twenty million and then who would set the tax to meet that?