

Department of Roads that wanted this amendment and we have agreed that we will drop the amendment at this time. I ask unanimous consent.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Hearing no objections, so ordered.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator DeCamp moves to amend the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President, I think that it is fair to say that this is a technical amendment. You may remember that we changed the interest rates on delinquent taxes. Basically I am just making sure that if a railroad is delinquent in paying this tax we charge them the same wonderful interest that we are charging everybody else and hopefully they will not be delinquent. But as long as I have got the floor and the amendment I would just like to touch on the legislation a little because I think that some of you may not be getting the entire picture of what the bill does. Number one it goes into effect exactly the same date and begins collecting taxes on exactly the same date as the ton mile tax. Okay, so there is no lag there. You get your money effective the same date. Number two, it will raise more money for sure the first several years. Whether that is two, three or four years it will raise more money than the ton mile tax, I don't know. It may raise more money long term. It depends on a lot of facts. But for sure for the foreseeable future...anybody that is here now, it is going to raise more money than what you would get with the other one. Number three, it is tailored specifically to Nebraska and therefore the railroads are realizing that they are in a bind, we have got them in a box so to speak. If ton mile goes into effect they think that it will spread to other states, it is that simple. This can go into effect and they don't have to fear it, because you would have to design something for each state. Therefore they know they can't beat the ton mile, I think. I think that it is Constitutional, I claim that it is Constitutional and we passed it on that argument that I gave, but, they will tie it up in litigation for two, three or four years, and we are needing money. We need to start getting it now. They have agreed publicly and I repeat that agreement here again not to attempt to litigate this. They will accept it and begin paying it. If you want to change it in the future, that is up to a future legislature. You might increase it and having once accepted it and paid it, it is highly unlikely that they would be able to do much in the future. In other words once we get them paying they can hardly say later, well, we didn't know what we were doing. As far as it not raising enough money to build all of the 70-80 overpasses that are needed, about all I can tell you is that if anybody in the whole place inside, outside in the whole State of Nebraska has a magic