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LB 394

They have to quit building roads as soon as the bad weather comes. And remember the State of Nebraska this year is going to allocate \$111 million for road building in the State of Nebraska and the taxpayers are going to have to pay that money out themselves in unemployment compensation, because when the contractors bid the jobs, they are going to include this high 112 percent minimum increase in their bid for the state. So maybe what they will actually be doing is just borrowing money...they will be loaning the state money until they get it back when they get their contract paid, because we are putting the cost up to ourselves every time we put out a road job for bid. This new rate is going to be included in the bid. I again would like to urge you to accept the Stoney amendment and, frankly, I am thinking of making a motion to kill the whole bill and start all over again next week, but at this time I will just ask you to urge the Stoney amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. Chairman and members, I rise to strongly oppose the Stoney amendment. But before I start, I would like to ask Senator Higgins a question, if I may, if she would respond. Senator Higgins, you mentioned the construction industry as the second largest industry in the state. Could I ask you what the first largest industry is?

SENATOR HIGGINS: Senator Vickers, are you asking me facetiously?

SENATOR VICKERS: No, I just want to know what you....

SENATOR HIGGINS: I understand it is agriculture.

SENATOR VICKERS: Okay, thank you.

SENATOR HIGGINS: I thought it was a facetious question you being a rancher.

SENATOR VICKERS: No, I was serious. I assumed that is what you would answer because I assumed that is what it was also.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Agriculture doesn't have unemployment compensation, do they?

SENATOR VICKERS: That is correct.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Not today anyway.