

Senator Sieck. I want to talk about the businesses that will be closed because of some highway construction. As most of you know the State Highway Department tries to repair and rebuild roads in their various regions. They allocate say, ten or twelve or fifteen or maybe even \$20 million to each region in the state. So that means that some of these roads that need to be rebuilt have to be rebuilt in sections, taking eight or ten mile sections at a time. This one project or maybe I should say these three projects that we are talking about on Highway 81, it would take approximately three construction years to accomplish this. Some of these businesses along this area would have to close or be restricted to business all three of these years. If we issue these bonds we feel then we could accomplish this in one year and I realize that the Legislature can't tie this to a specific construction area but I think we could work with the State Highway Department and accomplish this. Another reason why I feel we should issue some bonds at this particular time is that the bids are coming in 13% to 17% and I believe in one instance 20% lower than the engineer's, what he thought they should come in at and, therefore, I think that this would be a good time to at least start this program and maybe continue it in the years to come.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Newell. Senator Beutler, are you here?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, there are a couple of clarifications I would like to have to begin with, Senator Sieck or Senator Hefner, whoever.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Sieck, will you respond please.

SENATOR SIECK: Yes.

SENATOR BEUTLER: As I understand it, this highway construction is not going to be done with the normal appropriations but through the issuance of bonds and those bonds are going to be issued under a special section of the Nebraska Constitution which allows you to do that with a three-fifths vote of the members. Right?

SENATOR SIECK: I think that is right.

SENATOR BEUTLER: And then where are these bonds going to be paid from?

SENATOR SIECK: The taxpayers of the State of Nebraska will pay for the bonds.