

interest rate.

SENATOR NICHOL: One minute.

SENATOR WARNER: In any event, I would urge you not to advance this bill but preserve the revenue that we already are collecting for roads which is equal to what is authorized for issuance of bonds and, secondly, when we get the suggestions from the Revenue Committee on how to tighten up things on propane and diesel and some of those areas, we will generate even additional revenue, not only to assist the state in its great backlog of road problems but also assist cities and counties as well.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. President and members, first of all I certainly sympathize with those of you that live close to Highway 81 and my seatmate of last year, Senator Maresh at that time, and I discussed this a great deal and I think he was probably the prime mover when this idea first got started. But I agree with Senator Warner and I'm sure I will not vote for any indebtedness for the State of Nebraska, especially at this time. I think we're still tussling with the bonds that we sold before. The interest rate is low but we are still paying on them. And if we obligate ourselves for five or ten years, I understand you can't get as long a long term bonding as you could or you probably don't want as long a long term bonding as you could a few years back. So whatever we do will have to be budgeted in the years to come. Now, it may sound kind of negative but Senator Warner has already mentioned what we're trying to do with the special fuels' tax, but why don't we face up to the issues. Everybody is squirming. They don't want to raise taxes but they want to get services and they want to get something done. Senator Koch yesterday had a bill that would, he thought, and I'm sure he's right, improve education. I voted against it and he nailed me and said, "How come? I thought you were for kids and education." I said, "You bring a bill around that will fund it and I will vote for it." And I think that is where we are. We all want pie in the sky. We want to have all these things but we don't want to face up to it from the Governor on down. I would be in favor of raising that 2% tax that Senator Warner and others put on a couple of years ago to 3% and really put a chunk of money into our road building program. I think it is a good time to build roads. They're hungry, the roadbuilders. They're ready to go to work. So if we want to do that let's do it up front, get the money and do the job, whether it is in education, whether it is in highway