

deal with the money and the justification....

SENATOR CLARK: You have one minute, Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you...the justification of this project or its nonjustification on the basis of its being a transportation facility. Bonds were not agreed to for a highway...81, I think. I don't know the number of the highway but I think that is it. There is an article that I gave you where the President intends to transfer these Interstate Transfer programs to the state. If you were unwilling to let bonds of about \$10 million for that highway, are you going to be willing to obligate the state for a bill of more than \$50 million? And I gave you letters from the Department of Roads and also the Federal Highway Administration that establishes the cost as in excess of \$50 million.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Duda.

SENATOR DUDA: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose this bill. I, too, have a keen interest in this as Senator Chambers does. I guess I could epitomize it by giving you a little bit of the history of District 14. As you know, my tenure here is going to be very short because in 1970 North Omaha had enough population to have 3 legislative districts, 11, 13 and 14. In the ten years until 1980 North Omaha lost over 20,000 people and which meant we had to go from 3 districts down to 2. Senator Fitzgerald magnanimously volunteered to give up the 14th, and I think he should have flipped a coin or drawn straws, but regardless the point is the 14th is going to Sarpy County and it is more than coincidence one of the boundaries of the new 14th is the interstate highway, because the history of Omaha since the interstate highway system is that the growth has followed the roads. The jobs have followed the roads, and the people have followed the roads, and Omaha has been isolated, North Omaha. And because of this we have desperately been waiting for this North Freeway. Now Senator Chambers wants to make it a financial issue. I look upon it as an issue of intent. Granted all the finances are under a cloud at this time. We were discussing Highway 81 the other day as to whether it could be improved. We weren't discussing whether we ought to hlock it off and abandon it. We wanted to improve it. Well the North Freeway is in the same category. When you Senators came to Omaha last fall, you saw the corridors had been cleared. A lot of work has been done on it. Granted the finances are null and void at the present time but we hope this will