

the kill motion?

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you very much, Senator Clark, and members of the Legislature, I would like to put some things into the record too. I would like to tell this body that four weeks ago yesterday I spent 45 minutes in Washington speaking with Secretary of Transportation, Drew Lewis, who very clearly stated that the intent of the federal government with the support of the President was to return all highways, all federal highways except the interstate system, to the control and the financing of the state. This was shared with members of the Executive Committee of the National Conference of State Legislatures. This means that the federal government will continue the responsibility on the interstate system. The problem is, as I see it, the North Freeway is not part of the interstate system. It has been removed. I don't know why. I don't where. I don't know when. But we are talking now about something that will ultimately be the responsibility of state dollars. From my seat on the Appropriations Committee I do not see this legislative body, even the Senators from Omaha, saying that they will be ultimately responsible for paying for the North Freeway construction. I do not support the kill motion, not because I want to talk about this anymore, but because I am aware a record needs to be made. Senator Chambers, do you have anything further in the way of information relating to Interstate 680 and how that affects your proposed resolution?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, and Senator Marsh in response to your question, Interstate 680 is very important because it is an existing road. It goes into the area that Senator Newell says will be developed by the North Freeway. The North Freeway does not go into the area he is talking about. I have to be frank. I don't know what kind of deals were made by whom, but never have I seen a road handled like the North Freeway. I am telling you that at the time I-680 was built Mr. Nutter said, and he is on record in a federal document, that the road was not needed. The city officials were able to get the money. They wanted a highway out there so they built it. They have never shown a justification for its need as a transportation facility. It is underused now and the economic base of Omaha does not even rely on transportation. So they were drawing in a lot of federal money when that road was built because there was no reason to believe that the federal money wouldn't be there. It went through largely uninhabited areas. There was not a lot of taking of property. There was not the going