

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I would like to rise in support of LB 717 and against the kill motion. Senator Landis is correct that as a general matter we discourage in this body earmarking of funds for particular purposes but we do do it in a number of instances. The most significant instance, of course, is the gas tax that people pay when they purchase gasoline that goes to improving our roads and those funds of course amount to tens of millions of dollars each year. Basically the entire Department of Roads' budget well in excess of a hundred million dollars a year is supported by gas tax funds which are paid by people that actually use the roads and highways of the State of Nebraska. We have that major exception. We have a number of other minor exceptions in the law to the general principle that general fund appropriations are paid out of the general fund. I think this is another appropriate exception to that principle. The people that come through the court system charged with speeding violations and other minor criminal offenses I think appropriately can be asked to contribute to the Law Enforcement Training Center fund for the training of law enforcement officers at every level. This additional dollar that is appropriated or that is added on to court costs by 717 will provide improved training for all levels of law enforcement, will also improve the investigation and prosecution of criminal offenses. I think it is appropriate for people that use the system, use the criminal justice system by way of receiving speeding tickets or whatever to contribute to the training of law enforcement officers, prosecutors, whatever and for that reason I would support LB 717 and the exception this makes to the general principle that Senator Landis talked about. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, I would ask you not to support the kill motion. The Law Enforcement Center at Grand Island is doing a fine job. I think we all agree on that. Now remember this Legislature passed this bill with the full knowledge that it would be supported this way. Now what is more fair and look at it with me in this way. I break a law and I get fined. Now should you as the public help pay for what I am doing? I break the law. I'm the reason why we have a law enforcement center or you break a law, why should I pay? I think this is the fairest tax, and that is what it is, that there is. Let the people who play, let them pay. Now remember, too, that we are talking about \$700 thousand, and this year when we are having such a problem with the budget, do we want to add another \$700 thousand on general funds? Also remember that we have a huge invest-