

March 11, 1982

LB 824

Omaha, the hills are very, very bad. This winter was one of the worst we have had in several years and I received over a hundred and seventy letters shortly after I introduced the bill from people that said they couldn't hardly get out of their driveways up the street had they had not been using the studded snow tires. I passed out to you, and I apologize because I was working so very hard on the last motion I forgot to put my initials on a three page correspondence I just put out and I think the Page is putting the initials on it now, but in case you are wondering, it did come from me. Now there are many critics that say the use of studded snow tires causes overconfidence in the driver. That is ridiculous. Would they also favor taking away the seat belts, the windshield wipers, the safety glass, and other items that increase the motorist's chances of avoiding an accident? Critics of studded tires also argue that icy roads occur only one or two percent of the time. Well, this weather this winter certainly did disclaim that. The same report contains much more important information. One-third of all the vehicles involved in accidents were on icy roads at that time, one-third of the accidents. Now the people that have appeared at the public hearing, let me tell you, was the Department of Roads, the City of Lincoln, the City of Omaha, and Senator Wesely, I am just saying that I am being very truthful and letting them know who appeared. There was not one citizen that appeared at the hearing that was objecting to the studded snow tires. Everyone that appeared, and I think there was twelve or maybe more that appeared in favor of the bill, gave very good testimony of what the studded snow tires has done for them. They know that especially in Omaha, and I did have some people from outstate that also wrote to me, in fact I only got two letters from my District, the majority of the mail I got was from out in the rural area where they say that the roads and the streets are not cleaned as quick and as often as they are in the city. Well, let me tell you, the City of Omaha is very, very bad in removing the snow and also taking care of the ice, especially in the residential area. In order to get to work and in order for the women to drive their children to school, they have to get out of the residential area. So I am saying to you that it definitely, definitely is something that the people of the State of Nebraska want. They talk about the damage that is done on the streets by studded snow tires. At the hearing one gentleman brought in a sack of gravel and sand that he picked up off the street, and believe me I have it in my office if any of you want to see it, he laid it on the desk, and he said if I would lightly run my hand across this desk over this gravel, it will ruin this desk, and how can we say that studded snow tires ruins the streets when we are using sand, gravel, heavy trucks, chains, and an increase