

March 30, 1981

LB 408

Also in the handout is the Triple A's position which is against the proposal that is embodied in LB 408 because of safety to car drivers and their concern for that safety question. I passed out an editorial from the Lincoln Star talking about the fact that other states are already testing this question and why should we test when we can wait and see the reaction in other states. What is so different about Nebraska that we need to pursue our own tests, when in fact, I should mention again, we are not talking about a test program. We are talking about basically a permit system to allow longer trucks, triple trailers, and other vehicles on our roads. It is not a test program from the way you read the amendment that is now the bill. The last handout I sent around shows, it is from the AAA again, the Research Report, it shows that a five axle tractor trailer weighing 80,000 pounds has as much damage to the road as 9,600 autos. That is the diagram that I just passed out. 9,600 cars would do the same damage as an 80,000 pound tractor trailer with five axles. Incredible, truly incredible, and yet that is what we are talking about here. In addition we are talking about an extra trailer, a triple trailer. I talked before about a report from the comptroller general and I think I should go back, Senator Vickers was talking about he is for the public and everybody else is for the railroads or trucks, well, I think those that are opposing this legislation are the ones really concerned about the public and you can talk all you want to about railroads versus trucks. When you look at the facts, we are talking about road damage, we are talking about road safety, I think it is quite clear that the strongest argument is in favor of killing this legislation no matter what the highest claim you have as to what side you are trying to represent. One of the questions that Senator Vickers talked about is, well, you know, there is a lot of different factors on road damage and this is just one of them so why are we so worried. Well, according to the CAO there was a study and it was requested of the State of Nebraska to respond, what really is causing the damage to our roads in this state, they were asked about a number of different possible impacts, and the State Roads Department responded. Now these are the different impacts and this is the response by the Roads Department as to what effect they have on road damage in Nebraska: Number one, lack of funds; state response, a moderate extent to impact on road damage. Deferred maintenance, what impact does that have; some extent, road damage. Age of the road; again the response, moderate extent, road damage. Design of roads; some extent has an impact on road damage. Automobiles, what impact do they have; little or no extent of damage to the roads. Heavy trucks; very great extent is the impact that they have on road damage. Trucks under permit; a moderate extent impact on roads. And finally, illegal overweight

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