

but highways. That has been prevalent in meeting after meeting I have attended over the years, that they wanted to keep that gas tax for roads. The last few nights I have driven a lot of miles in this state and the roads are rough. If we move funds out of the highway trust fund what we are doing is making sure that we are going to be shorter of funds to repair and make the needed repairs on our state highway system. I think this would be the worst mistake we could do would be to adopt the Landis amendment and then adopt the other amendment. I support the other amendment, the Fenger amendment without the Landis amendment. I think it is simple. We talk about breaking the budget, not getting the money from anywhere, well it is the state boards responsibility and the governor's responsibility of this state to meet the state board under existing law and adjust the tax rates, the sales-income rate to meet the needs of state government. Now, this is a fifth of one percent that we are talking about of one percent of the federal liability on a persons income tax. It is peanuts for the average person in the state except for the fact that this body and the governor's office have made a big thing out of holding a 15% rate which was unattainable and obviously not going to work when this session started. I think it is time that we look at it in a responsible fashion that we appropriate the funds and if necessary, force by resolution, the governor to take the action that is needed and place the rates where they will meet the needs of state government. Four years ago when this administration started there was an 18% tax rate that would have had to been to produce the same revenues a 20½% income tax rate. Nobody made an issue of it at that time and I had no complaints from taxpayers on that rate. The only problem we have today are the people and the governor that has made a 15% rate a major issue this year. If the leadership is outright and says we need the revenues and adjust the rates and explains honestly how insignificant it is to the average tax payer, we really don't have a problem to deal with. I urge the body to reject the Landis amendment and support the Fenger amendment and go to the general revenue system for our financing where it is a responsible thing to do.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Sieck. Is Senator Sieck here? Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Question.

SENATOR CLARK: The question has been called for. Do I see five hands? I do. Shall debate now cease? All those in favor vote aye, opposed vote nay. Voting on ceasing debate. Have you all voted? Record the vote.