

CLERK: 15 ayes, 10 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: Debate is not ceased. Senator Sieck, did you want to talk on the Landis amendment?

SENATOR SIECK: Yes. Mr. President, members of the body, I do not favor the amendment. I think we have got to keep that highway trust fund intact. As I drove through some of these roads, even in Lincoln, I tell you they are in need of repair. I almost had an accident this morning driving down 10th Street. I know that money is needed in that particular area. I differ with Senator Kahle, I feel that \$3.75 should come from the sales and income tax. I think it is ridiculous that we set up another fund here for the highway patrol. We have been using highway patrol funds from the General Fund, sales and income tax for years and now we think we are short of funds. We are not necessarily short of funds, all we have to do is increase the tax. We are hiding the tax and that bothers me. Why do we have to hide the tax? I don't feel we should support this amendment and I do feel that I should support Senator Fenger's bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: Mr. Speaker and members of the body, I rise in support of the Landis amendment to the Fenger amendment and I support the Fenger amendment as well. I was just looking over the fiscal analysis for the state patrol. We put 16 million dollars into the state patrol monies, of that \$7,400,000 goes for protection of people and property. It is my understanding based on previous information provided to us that approximately 80% of the highway patrol's function is traffic maintenance and enforcement of traffic laws, 80% of it. You know sometimes I think of a highway patrolman as major crime fighters, but the truth of the matter is our major crime fighters are our policemen and our sheriff. Our highway patrolmen maintain our traffic laws. Now for years now we have dedicated the gasoline tax to highway maintenance. Highway maintenance has become an extraordinarily sacred cow. It has become a sacred cow because a lot of people make a lot of money in building our roads, in maintaining our roads and in reconstructing our roads. Now so long as we are going to have a dedicated tax, why not allow that tax to be dedicated to all road functions and one of the principle functions of the highway patrol is enforcement of traffic laws on our roads. 80% of their current function goes simply into traffic enforcement. Now it isn't as though Senator Landis is out to lunch on this issue. It is not as though the Governor is out to lunch on this issue. Twenty six other states take highway trust fund money and put it into the operating budget