

April 1, 1982

LB 761

is offered by Senator Chambers. It is on page 1489.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, this second amendment attempts to offer the same amount of money but it is going to do it from a different funding source. Not strictly a different funding source but there will be a different funding mechanism. The first amendment would have diminished the amount of funds that the State Department of Roads has for other projects which it said it would be willing to do to complete this one, but that amendment having failed, I now am attempting to amend the section of the appropriation bill that deals with the variable gas tax. If this amount were added at the section that I want to add it, it would not take anything from the budget currently appropriated for the Department of Roads. It would increase that amount by \$26 million. However, that might result in an increase in the variable gas tax and the variable gas tax exists for that very purpose. Now perhaps I was not very persuasive in getting you to adopt the other amendment because I didn't make some points clear. By the way I am glad I was the only one left up there. I wanted to be the one individual standing, and that reminded me of something that I may tell you about before I finish, but there was an ad put in the Wall Street Journal on the dates February 4th, 11th, 18th, and 19th, and 25th, the Southwest edition, dealing with the interstate highway system. The Asphalt Institute was indicating that money is diminishing for the maintenance of roads. If you want a copy of that ad you can get it. There was a handout offered by Senator David Newell when he was opposing Senator Labedz' motion relative to studded tires, and this handout talked about a Paul Schleisser, S-c-h-l-e-i-s-s-e-r, who is with the Omaha Chamber of Commerce and he said this, "We opposed studs before and we still oppose them. The federal money for city streets is drying up and this will call for better stewardship of the funds that we have. No state and no metropolitan city can afford to allow studded tires on highways and streets." Another acknowledgement that the federal money for local roads is not there. If you are concerned about the fact that a certain amount of money has already been expended on this project, don't let that bother you. In the Lincoln Journal, February 17, 1982, they talk about a nuclear plant in Tulsa, Oklahoma that had to be abandoned. It was a nine year project that had cost \$233 million. Now after nine years and the expenditure of \$233 million, it was decided that it would be in the best fiscal interest of all concerned to abandon that project. But so that that won't be the only thing on your mind, there