

April 14, 1982

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of funds and there is not much likelihood of its completion. That is the last thing I can offer you and I also think that since we have inconvenienced the poor citizens in the area who live near the path of the Freeway by tearing down their houses and uprooting them and disrupting their community, a bit of discomfort ought to be put on the utilities by requiring them to commence the relocation of utilities. Then the resolution should be sent where it ought to be sent, based on my opinion not yours. A copy should be sent to the Secretary of Transportation, Drew Lewis, Federal Highway Administrator, R. A. Barnhart, and to the television program, That's Incredible, because that is exactly the description of what the Legislature's activities on this matter have been. I will not be too distressed no matter what kind of vote you give me because you outvoted Senator Burrows on a motion a minute ago five to one. You destroyed his amendment, 15 against, 3 for, and I think the 2 in addition to himself were sympathy votes. I don't care if I don't get any votes in support of this resolution because I am putting into the record the information that I need to pursue this issue with the federal government all summer, fall and winter. I am going to show them the unwillingness of this state to do anything to assure the citizens who have been disrupted by this program that the project will be completed. Such being the case, I can show that the federal government is being suckered by the State of Nebraska by trying to use federal funds to pay for projects that the state itself ought to pay for. My concluding comment, the money that the state gets from the interstate fund is like money or a bird in the hand. They get that. There was a provision written into the interstate funding law that said any state having completed its interstate will always get one-half of one percent of the total amount of money in the interstate trust fund at the federal level. Well, they had that money so they decided to double-dip. They would take the North Freeway which was a part of the interstate off the interstate system, put it in the interstate transfer program. That way they could keep getting their interstate money without having to spend it on the Freeway and the Freeway would make it possible for them to dip into a second fund. Well, by giving up the bird in the hand to reach for the one in the bush Nebraska has lost both because of a definition of interstate highway completion adopted by Congress in December of last year, and you all may as well not listen to this because you won't understand it anyway, it is too deep for you. This is deep. Nebraska has completed their interstate, and because they have no live or viable interstate projects going now, they cannot use about \$12 million they have already been given

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