

November 5, 1981

LB 8

percent cut in operations compared to every agency that is in the State of Nebraska that is only getting 3 percent. I ask that we be fair and make it an entirely 3 percent across the board cut in operations.

PRESIDENT: The question before the House then is the adoption of the Labeledz amendment to LB 8. All those in favor vote aye, opposed nay. Have you all voted? Record the vote.

CLERK: 14 ayes, 27 nays, Mr. President, on adoption of the amendment.

PRESIDENT: Motion fails. The next amendment.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next amendment is offered by Senator Hoagland.

PRESIDENT: Senator Hoagland, the Chair recognizes you.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. Speaker and colleagues, you should all have just had distributed to your desk a summary of what my amendment would do and the statutory language effectuating it. Now it is really very simple. As you know, the Department of Roads has a budget of \$216 million in total. Of that \$216 million budget \$160 million is for new highway construction statewide and 39 almost \$40 million of that budget is for highway maintenance. Now an additional 9.7 is for highway administration and an additional 7.1 is for services and support. All that totals again \$216 million dollars that the Department of Roads raises from gas tax revenues. Now what this amendment would do is restore what are in my opinion the worst of the cuts, the 8.6 million dollar meat axe 3 percent cuts in all of the state agencies in the state including a \$4 million cut in the University budget. It would also restore the \$600,000 cut in the community college budgets state aid program which Senator Nichol attempted to restore yesterday. So the amendment in short would restore about \$9.2 million in cuts proposed in those two items, again the 8.6 million and the 3 percent meat axe across the board reduction of all state agencies and the reduction of state aid to the community colleges, and substitute that with a one-shot \$10 million transfer from the state highway fund over into the general fund. Now I know that some of you are going to be concerned about the precedent that this sets. I know that Senator Warner has worked long and hard on various statutes involving the Department of Roads, including a variable gas tax program that we set up two years ago. Now if you look at the language I passed out, I think it is clear that we are amending the statutes to permit just