

in the next fiscal year a transfer of only \$10 million out of that highway trust fund to make up for all of these other cuts. Now another benefit is that we are only restoring \$9.2 million in cuts and we are adding \$10 million in funds altogether, so we will have about \$8 0,000 to apply toward the additions that we made on the floor of the Legislature yesterday. Now let me say this in justification for this. I know that some of you are going to be a little surprised at this proposal, but here is why I think it makes sense. This \$10 million represents less than 5 percent of the budget of the Department of Roads. What it will mean basically is that less than 5 percent of the planned road projects in the next year will have to be postponed a year. So in exchange for not having to cut 3 percent out of the budgets of all these state agencies including \$4 million out of the University budget, including over \$200,000 out of the Department of Education budget, including all of the other items that are listed in the Governor's proposal here that we have in this brown folder, why we can simply defer for one year less than 5 percent of the road building projects statewide. I think it makes a lot of sense. I think the way it is drafted it is clear that we are doing it only for one year. Granted, I know some of you are going to be concerned about the precedent that this sets, but as the Governor has indicated I think we are facing a critical revenue shortage at this point, this is an unusual special session, we are having to use unusual devices in order to accommodate the financial needs of the state, and in that kind of situation I think we can take this unusual step just this one time. I would ask you to support this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator DeCamp.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, Senator Hoagland had one big error. He said there is no precedent, and he said we might be concerned this would set a precedent. There is a precedent for this identical practice. There is...it's public knowledge. It's one of the most famous precedents ever and it was done by a guy named Lyndon Baines Johnson. Sometime during the Vietnam War he said we can have guns and butter, and his method to do it was he robbed the Social Security funds, the highway trust funds and financed his war and then you had something later called Social Security system in trouble, highway trust funds in trouble, and so on and so forth. Our highways in this state unfortunately if you have driven on them outside of maybe Lincoln or Omaha, are just about the most disastrous in the United States. They need more money, not less. To use the old guns and butter