

should honor that commitment. I urge the body's rejection of the Stoney amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Cope.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President and members, I would oppose Senator Stoney's amendment. With the traffic fatalities that we have in Nebraska this year, last year, the year before, increasing all the time, I don't honestly believe that we can afford to cut funds that were authorized by this Legislature just this past session. Now this is the important age, I believe, for training the high school age right at this spot where young people begin lifelong habits in driving a car. Now I'm not saying they can't learn how to drive some other way, but I am saying that education the proper way is just bound to help cut down fatalities, accidents, in years and years to come. Think of the costs just in dollars of the deaths, the agonies, also the property damage and, of course, the cost of the people who are injured and not killed. Now I am not going to repeat what Senator Koch says, but it is certainly justified. This is a tax on our registration. The people who drive cars are paying for it. So I would certainly ask that you oppose this amendment.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Apking.

SENATOR APKING: Mr. President, I just want to add that this is....we are right now dealing with funds that have been designated for places that are under the 7 percent lid. School districts have set their budgets as of September 1st. They have hired the teachers. They have leased the cars. And they are under a 7 percent lid. If we take this money away from them now, it is going to have to come from somewhere else and ultimately it could be textbooks. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: The Chair recognizes Senator Vard Johnson.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I am going to rise in opposition to Senator Stoney's amendment, but not because I think he is doing a bad thing. I think instead that Senator Stoney is bringing to us exactly the kind of things that should be brought to us as we go through a session dealing with the budget. You know, what is a problem to this state i.e. revenues is also a tremendous opportunity and the real opportunity is for the State of Nebraska not to cut back all the agencies by 3 percent, but instead to cut back those programs that have outlived their usefulness and those programs that no longer provide the kind of benefits