

But what is going to be done is that which is politically expedient. The politically expedient thing to do is to cut programs of those who are helpless, those who are poor, those who do not have a lobby in Washington, and those who have no representatives in Congress. So that means the sick, the elderly poor. There are people who are being put out of hospitals who are old now because they are not in critical condition. There are poor families presided over by single females. The amount of assistance that will go to these types of people is being drastically cut. Aid to housing has been drastically cut during the Reagan years. So I would like to ask Senator Warner a question. Senator Warner, if there would have to be Gramm-Rudman action, or cutting across the board, if what is being proposed in this resolution were to be achieved, would that mean no cuts would come out of the high...no money out of the Highway Trust Funds?

PRESIDENT: Senator Warner, please.

SENATOR WARNER: Well there would be no money, whether this goes or not, out of the Highway Trust Fund at the federal level, because that is in essence a dedicated fund. I'm not aware....It would take other legislation, I guess at least, to move those funds for some other purpose, beyond what exists.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Right, okay, and we wanted to be sure that they would not touch those funds for the purpose of budget reduction in the last resolution.

SENATOR WARNER: In the previous...well in the previous resolution all we were talking about was, in effect, the impounded funds which, because the manner in which the Highway Trust Fund is considered in the federal budget process it becomes an artificial mechanism to reduce the appearance of a deficit. I'm not aware that it affects the...it can't affect the Gramm-Rudman for the simple reason that it doesn't free up any money as a result. You know it's all by itself, isolated from the rest of the budget, except for the fact that it can be utilized to make the deficit appear smaller than, in fact, it is...

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And what this...oh, excuse me.

SENATOR WARNER: ...by \$15 million.