

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And what this resolution would say is there cannot be an increase in the gas tax, fuel tax to reduce the deficit.

SENATOR WARNER: What the resolution, this resolution deals only with the issue of whether or not the tax on motor fuel would be increased for purposes of diverting it from highway purposes and mass transit purposes and use it for general revenue for the federal government, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So in effect what we would be saying is that those who pay the gas and fuel tax would not be participants in the reduction of the deficit as others may be called on to do.

SENATOR WARNER: I know of no other tax, Senator Chambers, at least that I've heard of any general taxation that would not be borne by those who drive vehicles as well as those who do not. So they're not being shielded from participation, but rather they're not being isolated to be the only one or main one to provide funds for federal deficit reduction.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Scofield had mentioned, and maybe others had, about Nebraska being an agricultural state and therefore...

PRESIDENT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...this type of tax, if it were to be used in the way envisioned by the resolution, which the resolution is trying to prevent from happening, would impact strongly on Nebraska. I don't have enough time. How many other lights on are Mr. Chairman? How many other lights are on?

PRESIDENT: Two besides yours.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, then I'm going to put mine on again, after I finish, because my time will run out. But, Senator Wesely, one reason they're talking about putting a tax on imported oil is because Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma are in serious trouble because they rely on oil, and it costs them more to pump the oil than they can sell it for, and there are powerful members in Congress and interests that reside in at least some of those states, Texas for sure. So I'm not sure that people in Nebraska ought to be concerned about what is happening in Texas to the extent of penalizing the people in