

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay. Then if the benefits would go to the entire state, in the case of a county to the entire county, in the case of a city to the entire city, why will we place, on one industry, the burden in the form of a tax to support something that's going to be beneficial to the entire state, county and city respectively?

SENATOR HALL: Because, Senator Chambers...and that's a good question.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: All of them are good. (Laughter.)

SENATOR HALL: As always.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you.

SENATOR HALL: Senator Chambers, the issue is one of this is an industry that thrives...it's kind of a love-hate relationship. They thrive on these tourist attractions. If you go into any hotel or motel, whatever city it might be, the first thing that you see when you enter that is a promotional packet about the community that you happen to be in. It tells about all the attractions, all the visitor sights that you can see, what's available to the public, and they promote that. It brings people back to use their facilities. And you ask, why should one industry, the lodging industry, bear the burden? I guess we've set that precedent, and we talked about it just the other day. We have one industry, I guess you could call the folks who sell gasoline an industry. They, basically, collect the tax for the construction and maintenance of roads in this state. We've determined that a user kind of fee makes sense and, even though it is a collection of a tax, the industry itself, in that case, does not complain when it goes up and down. As a matter of fact, they happen to support and protect the tax in that case, and protect it well they do.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: May I ask another question now, Senator Hall? When you talk about the gasoline tax, it's imposed on those who purchase the gasoline and it's called a user tax.

SPEAKER BARRETT: One minute.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: We cannot establish that the majority of those who use these facilities are those who go to these