

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. I'd like to ask Senator Scott Moore a question if he will answer.

PRESIDENT: Senator Scott Moore, please.

SENATOR MOORE: I'll do my very best.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: And, Senator Moore, I can't ask for any more. When you've done all that you can do, who can ask for more? Do you feel, as Senator Hefner does, that if that 1 percent sales tax on automobiles is diverted to the Highway Trust Fund it will reduce property taxes, as envisioned by this bill and presented by those who support the bill?

SENATOR MOORE: I would not necessarily follow Senator Hefner's logic all the way to that extent, though I understand the argument he is making.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, but if Senator Smith's amendment were adopted, would it, in fact, put more money into the funding mechanism of this bill to go directly toward the stated purposes and goals of this bill?

SENATOR MOORE: The way I understand the amendment, yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Why is there opposition to making more money available to help make up a shortfall?

SENATOR MOORE: The opposition comes from precedent, whether it be right or wrong.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Moore, is the Highway Trust Fund being beaten out of some money that it was led to believe it would get at the time this session started? Was it their intent to seek a 1 percent increase in sales tax on automobiles to fatten their kitty?

SENATOR MOORE: No, to my knowledge it was not.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: So this bill will give them what could be described as a windfall, and I'm not saying that pejoratively.

SENATOR MOORE: Those are your words?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: It would, wouldn't it?