

business, and there's one thing that we hate to see done is when this gas tax has a yo-yo effect, goes up too much one quarter, and down too much. Up to the present quarter that we're in we didn't see that too much. Maybe it would go up a half a cent or maybe even up a penny, but that isn't so bad. But, come January 1 it went up 5.1 cents a gallon. And this was terrific. And, like I was telling you earlier when we was debating the issue on the first reading, the first stage of debate, this is real hard, especially on some of the border towns and the border dealers. And I'm just hopeful that, when the Board of Equalization drops this tax rate down again, these dealers are able to pick that up. We have a couple stations in South Sioux City, Nebraska, and we also have one in Sioux City, Iowa, so it isn't so bad on us. But, every time that gas tax rate fluctuates too much, we lose business in Nebraska and we gain it in Iowa. And, of course, that means that we lose those tax receipts for Nebraska. The State of Iowa, or the State of Missouri, or the State of South Dakota doesn't help us when that gas is purchased in those particular states. Again, let me mention that Missouri only has a state gas tax of 11 cents. So, right now we're a little over 15 cents a gallon higher than the State of Missouri. I believe the gas tax rate in Iowa is 20 cents a gallon. So, now we're about 5 or 6 cents a gallon over them. The state gas tax rate in South Dakota is 18 cents a gallon, whereas we're 26 cents a gallon, you can see that's quite a little. So, I think Senator Warner's amendment here is okay. We certainly don't want to politicize the setting of this quarterly gas tax. So, if we can keep it kind of evened out, and as I understand it it looks like, beginning April 1, the variable gas tax will drop back to around 21, 22 cents a gallon. And this also is figured on the average wholesale price two months before that quarter begins, so this would be January. And so I think this bill is needed. I think the Warner amendment is needed, and I'd certainly encourage you to support it, if you can. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Hefner. I'll now recognize Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: I, too, along with Senator Hefner, my committee mate in the Revenue Committee, support the amendment. It will take out some of the yo-yoing effect possible with two rapid changes in our variable tax rate to adopt this amendment. And, for that reason, I urge its adoption and advancement of the bill.