

February 28, 1991 LB 699

SENATOR RASMUSSEN: Yes.

SENATOR MOORE: Okay, I don't like that either and that's another portion of the bill I don't like. I think we need to look at that in total as we look at all the things. That's the number two portion of the actual bill I don't like. Obviously, the second big thing is the argument of the Highway Trust Fund money and the sales tax, an argument we've revisited many times on this floor and I think oftentimes people mention, and Senator Rasmussen alluded to it in her opening, that, boy, that Legislature, those 1059 boys and girls, they pulled a fast one. They snuck money over into the Highway Trust Fund. Well, if we snuck money over there, I mean, I spent...as others did, a lot of time this summer defending our action. You know, Don Adams, Sr., in Nebraskans Against Higher Taxes, spent over a quarter of a million dollars making sure that was a big issue, drove home every day to me, every day to the people in Nebraska on TV and the radio and so that was...though, you know, in the discussion of the Legislature, we discussed that more than once last year...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR MOORE: ...and we chose not to divorce the motor vehicle sales tax and the Highway Trust Fund. That was a conscientious decision this body made, we didn't sneak it by anybody. Is it a good argument why does it have to be that way? It doesn't have to be that way. You can use it for this, you can use it for the university, you can use it to build prisons, you can use it to fund teachers' salaries, you can use it to fund state aid to schools, you can use it for a lot of things. The fact of the matter is if you take this money away from the Highway Trust Fund, you know, right now when we passed LB 1059, had we not have passed it right now, the gas tax in this state would be about a penny higher than it is right now because the way it works is when they set the variable gas tax rate, they take into account funds from the motor fuel tax, special fuel tax, interest on investment. One of those is sales tax on motor vehicles and, yes, because we passed 1059 and raised the sales tax, that increased by some \$14 million. And the Highway Trust Fund, sure, that was 7.7.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.