

February 28, 1991 LB 699

guess the rationale for earmarking both of these taxes is that they go to purchase fuel and purchase vehicles that are used on the roads, the use of those vehicles on the roads damages the roads and that's what necessitates us having to go out and repair roads that have been damaged and build new roads for new vehicles that are being bought. Now there certainly is a rationale there. However, what has happened in the case of the sales tax on motor vehicles is that whenever we have adjusted the sales tax rate in Nebraska for other purposes, the Highway Trust Fund has been the unintended beneficiary of this. There is no rational basis in the fact that last year we raised the sales tax by a penny to pay for LB 1059 and all of a sudden we're giving \$15 million more dollars to the Highway Trust Fund. There is no one standing there saying, hey we have a need for 15 more million dollars, and it's just...I don't see a rational basis for that and I think we ought to decide in this body if we're going to use the sales tax on motor vehicles to fund the Highway Trust Fund exclusively, we ought to separate that rate. That ought to be a rate that is set separately from the general sales tax rate. We hadn't just ought to be adjusting the general sales tax rate for other purposes and as a consequence giving more money to the Highway Trust Fund. I support the motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Will. Senator Robinson.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Madam President and members of the body, I want to compliment Senator Rasmussen. I listened to her. I really don't think the members of the body showed much decorum when she was talking. I signed onto the bill and, being a pragmatist, you know, I thought this bill had about as much chance as the ground war lasting four days. The other day in Appropriations Committee we were discussing the way the bill would be funded and Senator Bernard-Stevens gave me a political lesson on the Highway Trust Fund and how it got to be part of 1059. And now I understand the politics of how that got to be. Senator Hefner, I want you to know, I was just about brought to tears when you were talking about roads, you really got to me, because every day when I go up to my house I've got to go, oh, about a quarter of a mile and, you know, the darn thing hasn't been rocked for 10 years. You know, it's not too bad. I can make it by. But I'm glad you don't have anything to do with oil or petroleum or anything like that because I've got a lot of good supporters in that area. Senator Moore, you went to Benedict High School. They did give you a good, sound basis for