

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Warner. Senator Coordsen.

SENATOR COORDSEN: Thank you, Madam President. Members of the body, I'm not going to argue the statistics, although maybe the 848,000, and if you recall, that was based upon the original bill which was a 15 percent permit which is the same thing that we currently allow on axles that are 84 inches or seven feet apart, tandem axles that you see on many, many trucks. Most farmers have that type of truck. You're putting, with a permit, which you can legally do today, you can put 39,100 pounds on seven feet of roadway. What this says is 21,000 on one axle without a permit. I think it's fair. I don't think it's nearly as easy or I wouldn't be getting the phone calls at harvest time to guess what that truck has on when it leaves the field. There are very few of us in rural areas that haven't at least heard complaints on harassment. It wasn't harassment because it was legal. Carry enforcement was doing nothing more than following the law. The Department of Roads indicated no special problem with this. It's a very limited, very, very limited time frame in certain circumstances. Currently, with permits, on a garbage truck by buying a \$10 a month, \$100 a year permit, we can go up to 20 percent. Is a load on a farmer's truck less important than a garbage truck? I don't know. That's something you have to answer for yourself. If you do inadvertently get caught, there is no judge or jury...well, there can be if you appeal, but if you're 10 percent overloaded, it's an automatic \$75, 9 percent or less overloaded; if you're 10 percent, it's a \$150 fine. Ten percent is hard to guess in the field for all of us. I would urge that the indefinite postpone motion not be supported and that the bill be advanced in its present form.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Coordsen. Does anyone else wish to speak on this motion? Seeing none, do you wish to close, Senator Warner?

SENATOR WARNER: Well, Mr. President, there isn't much to say, it's a judgment matter. Obviously, Senator Coordsen has pointed out the fine which is fairly high. That, in itself, should tell you that the reason the fine is high is because the damage is high, not as much as it was originally proposed, obviously, but nevertheless it is. It's a cost that we all incur. And I would argue that with the additional tolerance that we will all load to 21,000 because that's what we can legally do and you will have the same problem of guessing 21,000 as you do 20,000, if, in fact, that's a problem. I don't believe, again, because of