

bill that raised the sales tax, and along with that increase a tax was added to vehicles was before the body, I was opposed to raising that tax, period, because I generally oppose any increase in the sales tax. When it became clear that that was going to be raised anyway on automobiles, I had supported others, then attempted to do it by way of amendment, to put that money where the bill, itself, said that the sales tax increase would go and that was for educational purposes. I have, in the past, always made a distinction between aid to education and aid to teachers and schools. Aid to teachers and schools does not necessarily mean that education, as a process, will be improved, but because the representation was made to the public about the purposes of that bill that raised this tax, I see no ethical or principled basis for allowing that money to go into the Highway Trust Fund. The bill was not drafted, it was not presented to the public as a way to raise money for the highways. It was touted as an education bill. For those who don't want this money to stay out of the Highway Trust Fund, I don't think they could stand here and say that the intent of that bill was to raise money for the Highway Trust Fund. I believe this is a good amendment. It's purpose is proper, but as has happened in the past, misrepresentations about legislation have emanated from this body. This amendment is an opportunity to correct one of those misrepresentations. I know that the Highway Trust Fund people are willing to take money any way they can get it, any way they can get it, by hook, crook, outright dishonesty, if that would bring money to them and they wouldn't have to go to jail if they were caught for doing it in that fashion. The construction of highways, the maintenance of bridges is important, but doing something for the education of our children is more important than anything else. For society, which professes to have the concerns that America always professes to have, the teaching profession should probably hold a higher level of respect than any other profession, than that of doctors, lawyers, burglars, embezzlers, inside traders, heads of the Mafia families. And the reason I mentioned those, they get a lot of respect. They get a lot of coverage. Gotti, who is on trial now, is called the "Teflon Don" because he has been charged and tried a number of times but they haven't been able to convict him so nothing sticks to him in the same way they said nothing stuck to Ronald Reagan. The reason it didn't stick to Ronald Reagan, by the way, because they tried to attach it to his brain cells, and he had nothing to which to attach something, there...