

March 20, 1992

LB 1272

LR 219

argue back and forth on one issue for six days on the floor of this Legislature, and even the reporters who may sit here half dozing don't get straight what it is we were talking about. So to indicate that because the public, if they paid close attention, had the opportunity to be aware of what we were talking about, therefore, you conclude they were aware and did understand, I think is taking a leap that is not justified by the reality that we, as politicians, know does exist out there. We have talked about many bills which the public does not understand. Senator Hefner stayed here on the floor far more hours than I did while the tax measures were being discussed, notably, LR 219CA. I was listening in my office and then Senator Hefner looked at the explanation of that amendment, which is going to go on the ballot, and it is difficult to believe that anybody would understand it, and it would be hard to have those of us who are on this floor to read that explanation and give it in a way that people would understand. Yet the public had every opportunity to hear all of the discussion because it was carried in Omaha on cable from gavel to gavel. They had the opportunity to read the language of LR 219CA. They can call the bill drafter's office or the office downstairs where they distribute these bills and say in the bill room, I want a copy of that bill. Then they can get a copy of the explanation, and then we can say, because you have the opportunity to read these things and hear that discussion, you should understand thoroughly LR 219CA. Now who on this floor would make such a comment as that in all seriousness? Nobody, I don't think. So that bill, which got that windfall for the Highway Trust Fund, was not accepted by the public because they wanted to increase the sales tax on automobiles and put money in the Highway Trust Fund. Now I don't remember anybody who was promoting that bill in a public forum using that as a selling point. So I still maintain that that money wound up in the Highway Trust Fund under a false flag. Senator Warner, when I made my first comments, I had said that I supported efforts to try to change where that money went, and that I had offered amendments to accomplish that purpose. So I didn't mean to say that the matter had not been discussed by us here on the floor. There are numerous issues that some of us will discuss very vigorously and get trounced, but that doesn't mean that there wasn't adequate discussion and it doesn't mean that we were not correct. It simply means that a majority of the legislators had their opinion given to them by somebody who was not only incorrect, but either very persuasive or held a lot of power over the members who voted that way. I think, when all is said