

funds, but it seems like now when we talk about a sales tax on automobiles, for example, we have to be very, very concerned that even though the purpose and the reason for that sales tax, to begin with, was education. That tax has to go back to automobiles. I think there are some double standards, and I think we all know that. I know how sacred highway trust funds are, and I appreciated Senator Kristensen using, as an example, the road construction in Omaha or Douglas County that, I guess we...that's a good example to use where a lot of money is being spent. But on the other hand, I guess a lot of people use those roads, including Nebraskans going through Nebraska. I'm not quite sure how we spread that responsibility around. We talk about, for example, out of Douglas County 40, 42 percent of all the income is developed for the state, but we get back 28 percent of it. Where do you begin, where do you end with these kinds of arguments? Howard did raise a good issue about the railroad, the source of the funds, of course, resurrected the argument already established on the floor. But all of that, in my opinion, is simply a diversion from the fact that the teachers paid a terrible price. The school districts, indirectly, pay a terrible price as well. They gave up \$5 million, they got cut another 7 million, and we seem to use as an excuse not to consider that sacrifice and that cooperation that they were willing to give back to all the rest of us some kind of a source of funds to meet that, I think, important and justified need, especially as a result of a tax that was developed for educational purposes in the first place. Because we have never really been consistent, as we earmark money, in spending it the way we earmarked it,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR LYNCH: ...I think now it's too late to use that same kind of sacred cow argument as it applies to these particular funds, in this particular case, for highways. And I think there obviously still is justification for using these funds with or without Senator Lamb's amendment, which I supported, by the way, you supported the...I think I was the 25th vote for your railroad, Howard, when it came up earlier on. But in any case, I...I would hope that you could see through the inconsistent arguments and support the effort for the teachers.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Lynch. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: (Response inaudible.)