

Abboud, Senator Ashford, Senator Bernard-Stevens, and Senator Beutler, please check in. Senator Lindsay, Senator Byars, Senator Nelson, Senator Pirsch, Senator Elmer, please check in. We're looking for Senator Abboud. While we're waiting for Senator Abboud to arrive, Senator Landis would like to direct your attention to the area under the south balcony. Special guests today of Senator Landis are theatrical producer, Dick Mueller, and actress, Patricia Kies. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. We will proceed with roll call vote on the Lamb amendment to the Bernard-Stevens amendment.

CLERK: (Roll call vote taken. See pages 1481-82 of the Legislative Journal.) 15 ayes, 25 nays, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: The amendment fails. I will raise the call. Is there anything further, Mr. Clerk?

CLERK: I have nothing further pending to the Bernard-Stevens, Rasmussen, Crosby amendment, Madam President.

PRESIDENT MOUL: We will then return to debate on the amendment itself. Senator Hefner, followed by Senators Kristensen, Moore, Warner, and Schellpeper. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Madam President and members of the body, I rise to oppose this amendment. And the reason that I oppose this, I feel that it would be bad policy to divert Highway Trust Fund monies to other...for other expenditures. In the Highway Trust Fund a portion of that goes to the counties and to the cities. The other 53 and 1/3 percent goes to the State Highway Department. And when we divert funds from the Highway Trust Fund that means that the counties and the cities will have to raise property taxes if they want to keep up with their road improvement program. And I think this is wrong. The need is great out there. I know that a lot of money is being spent in Omaha on the interstate system, and I feel it's needed. There's quite a little money being spent in rural Nebraska, too, and it's needed because we need good roads for economic development. And we're certainly on a push at that right now. But I want to tell you of an example in northeast Nebraska. There are some school buses that can't go around their route because of a bad bridge, or a bad road. And so here we're taking some of this money that we need so badly to build new bridges, build new roads, and divert it to...to the teachers pay. And I think