

And you know that that sales tax goes into the Highway Trust Fund. Now, maybe when we voted, in our zeal to do 1059, some of you said, yes, yes, I knew that. But the overall good is there. Well, there's a reason that part of those motor vehicle funds are automatically taken every time we increase the sales tax. If we'd done that in 1120 this year, yes, part of that would have gone into the Highway Trust Fund. It's not a matter of not knowing. And the people who say they didn't know, I think, are a little clouded by their zeal for the bottom line, and the bottom line is that they want to get money any way that they can to the teachers. I would say it's a good goal and a worthwhile goal to give that money to teachers. I violently object to the process that's being used to get there, because I think you compromise that system. And roads aren't a privilege. Roads are for absolute survival. There's not one community in the State of Nebraska that doesn't depend entirely for its survival upon good roads. If you do not have those roads and continue to maintain them, you will not get food, you will not get utilities, you will not get the supplies that you need to keep those communities going. And so it's just not, well, we'll hurt them just a little bit. The funding of roads is so expensive, takes such long-range planning, and because of the time lag to do it, that you need stable funding sources. This is probably a very good program, the increasing of teachers salaries. I've never ever wavered that that's not a good policy. But I certainly do not think...

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: ...this is the proper process to do that in. Once we start down that road, there will be other projects that I think are less worthy than the teacher salary bills that will come into play. And maybe because of the zeal, maybe it's refunds for centrally assessed properties, that we feel boxed in that we have to do. Where is that source going to be? Well, here's another source. We've scrambled after every creative source we could this year in the face of a personal property tax crisis. Taking this penny that we knew full well that was going into the Highway Trust Fund and the increase in the motor vehicles is not the policy that we ought to pursue. Just to leave you with a couple of facts, if you're going to reconstruct the interstate system, for just two lanes it's a half a million dollars...or, no, \$500 million to do that. It's almost 500,000...