

buses that cannot travel all the county roads because of some condemned bridges and so if we're going to take money out of the Highway Trust Fund, which the counties and cities get about 8 or \$8.5 million, this would prolong the building of new bridges and I think that's wrong. I don't think we can afford to raid the Highway Trust Fund. I think we need to keep the money there so that we can build the roads and bridges that we need. Now we've been told that the teacher incentive program is a good program and at this time I don't argue about that, but if it is, well then let's fund it out of the General Fund. Let's be up front about it and if it takes a small increase in sales and income tax, well let's do it, but it seems like we always want to come in the back door or at least many times we want to come in the back door and pull this money from some other sources and I think that's wrong. I just feel that if we raid the Highway Trust Fund we're going to cause property taxes to go up because the counties and cities are going to have to keep on with their road programs and by doing that the only other source that they are able to get their money from is from property taxes so that will take, that will cause property taxes to go up. Also, it could cause gasoline taxes to go up because as we take money out of the Highway Trust Fund we need to replenish that. Most of us know that Nebraska has one of the highest gasoline taxes in the nation and this would just accelerate that. So I would say to you here this morning, let's support the reconsideration motion. Thank you.

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

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President and members, I would respectfully rise to oppose the reconsideration motion. I guess it's important in case we forgot over the weekend to remind everybody that the teachers tried to come through the front door and have for a long time and for many, many years, but they willingly gave up 5 million of the 20 million that they deserved to get for this particular purpose to help all of us, voluntarily. Nobody else did that. Nobody else with any kind of funds volunteered 25 percent of that particular budget to help all the rest of us in our budget crisis. Secondly then, 7 million was budgeted out again, almost 7 million. Now we're down to an almost insignificant amount of money. I'd like to suggest that, tell you a quick story. A long time ago when the state decided they would pay more of the cost for people from counties in state institutions. In Douglas County there was an amount of money, I think it was close to \$500,000 that would be