

PRESIDENT MOUL: Senator Ashford.

SENATOR ASHFORD: Thank you, Madam President and members, this amendment is the, I guess, the first effort in maybe some other efforts that will be undertaken to try to solve this funding source problem. I am one of those senators who agrees that we have to look for another source to fund this, the teacher bill, other than the Highway Trust Fund. I think that good arguments have been made by both sides, Senator Lynch and Senator Bernard-Stevens, for fully funding the teacher bill and by Senator Wehrbein, Senator Moore and others, Senator Warner, that the Highway Trust Fund is not an appropriate place to find that funding and I know that Senator Schrock has made it absolutely crystal clear that he will not vote to fund the teacher bill out of the Highway Trust Fund. So, therefore, it is obvious that we're going to have to take a look at some other course of action. It would be my preference at this point, and I would anticipate that if the bill goes forward to Final Reading in its present form that it would be doubtful that the bill would pass into law. So it's obviously incumbent upon those senators who wish to fund the teacher bill to find another source of funding. It would be my preference, this amendment by the way, is an amendment which attempts to find a source of funding for the Highway Trust Fund and it is an amendment that deals with replacement parts for interstate trucks and railroads and for the sale of new interstate, new and used interstate trucks. It is found at Section 77-2702 (11)(f) and 77-2703 (a) and regulations derived therefrom in Nebraska statutes. It's my intent at this point to withdraw that amendment, Mr. Clerk, but to hopefully suggest that this bill get moved over to Select File with the obvious realization that we're going to have to work at between now and Select File to find a way of dealing with the funding problem and maybe even, Senator Robinson, the 1272 wards of the court problem, though that's maybe going to be a heavier burden as far as I'm concerned, but be that as it may, let's... I will withdraw this amendment and then hopefully we can move this bill over to Select File. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Ashford. Before we continue I would like to call your attention to the area under the south balcony. Seated there is a special guest of the Legislature, former Senator Merle Von Minden from District 17. Would you please rise and be recognized. Welcome to the Chamber. Thank you. Seated in the south balcony are special guests of Senator