

if we decide to do that. But I still, without going back and spending too much time on the old argument, anything in my opinion nearly is more appropriate than using the Highway Trust Fund and that's what we're talking about this morning, an alternate to that. So I would tend to support Senator Lamb's amendment and if he would have any comments either now on my time or in the future as to what...how we compare to surrounding states, how long it has been since we've raised taxes on spirits, and so forth, Senator Lamb. If I have time, Senator Baack, I would give this to Senator Lamb, otherwise I'll let him do it on his own time. Do I have any time left?

SPEAKER BAACK: Yes, you have about two minutes. Senator Lamb.

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: I'll give that to Senator Lamb if he would like to use it.

SENATOR LAMB: The only thing I can tell you at this point, Senator Wehrbein, is that this would raise about the same amount of money as the pop tax, about \$11.4 million a year. I don't have that other information at my fingertips.

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Senator Lamb. Senator Robinson, you're next.

SENATOR ROBINSON: Mr. President, members of the body, Senator Lamb, a very ingenious amendment, I want to compliment you on it. It doesn't bother me one bit whether we take it from the beer drinkers or the pop drinkers. But when you start telling me that pop is a kid's drink, I wish Senator Chambers was here. You go check a convenience store. I'll bet you 60 to 70 percent of the pop is consumed by people like me. I get in the car to go to Lincoln and I've got to have my Diet Coke fix. Then I get down to Gretna, I can't go by that Sapp Brothers convenience store. I've got to rejuvenate my fix. I'm like you cigarette smokers. Then I get to Lincoln, first thing I do, I go to the apartment and then I have Slice because that's good for your health. Now that's a bunch of bunk, tell me it's a tax on kids. You guys know it and I know it. And, Senator Haberman, I hate to have you get up and say that, what you said, because you're against any tax. You might as well go home. That's all we're going to vote on the next 11, 12 days of raising taxes, some finagling way or the other. Right? Finger? Yeah, I can tell by the smile on his face he agrees...you know, I like the way he says things, you know, depending on the situation. I