

SENATOR JONES: Madam President and members of the body, I stand in opposition of the Hall amendment. I guess I can say that I've got roads and miles and miles up there, but anyway since the railroad quit up there on the north side along Highway 20, one of them cars probably held about 12 truckloads of grain and now...and figure about 600 cars a year went out of there, now we've got that 12 for everyone of them cars. We're getting trucks that are just going north and south and really deteriorating that roads up there. I've got three counties right now asking for disaster area, Rock, Keya Paha and Brown, because it's so much rain up there, they've got roads all under water and so we've got to stay ahead of it. The 20-year plan is something and I know they've got to have contracts way ahead of time. You wonder when this road is going to get done and they say, well, it's in the plan for so many years down the road, so I think we've got to keep on top of it because we can get behind real easy. When I moved to Custer County there was only one blacktop road there and everything else was gravel and I think there is still a few state roads that is gravel in the state and so I think that we've really got to stay on top of it and I hope that you oppose this amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Jones. Senator Kristensen.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Question.

SENATOR CROSBY: That won't be necessary, Senator, yours is the last light. Seeing no further lights, Senator Hall, you may close.

SENATOR HALL: Thank you, Madam President and members, again the amendment strips out the excise tax increase of a penny in the '95-96 budget and a penny and a half in the '96-97, which, in effect, would reduce the Department of Roads' budget in kind. That's what it does. It is a 25 million dollar amendment that would come out of the budget, would reduce the funding source that's in there as well so there would be no net impact, in essence, to the budget but it does address the issue of how we fund the Department of Roads and I believe that it is one that needs to be addressed, needs to be looked at and needs to be voting on, It's a tax increase that will be borne by the citizens of this state. I would urge adoption of the amendment.

SENATOR CROSBY: Thank you, Senator Hall. You've heard the closing. The question is the adoption of the Hall amendment to