

February 15, 1996 LB 1050

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Coordsen, members of the Legislature, I just want to make some brief remarks pointing out that everything in this bill is not to the, to the liking of a number of the urban proponents of the bill. This particular provision, for example, I know people in my school district feel that there ought to be a density factor built into this transportation formula. The formula is a very workable kind of formula. It has a lot of good things about it. Probably the deficiency of the formula is that, one, it does not maximize the encouragement of efficiency because on the side of the formula that says 29 or 30 cents times the 400 percent, if you're considerably below that figure, there's no incentive to keep you from going up to that maximum amount. That's one of the problems. And the other problem is that it gives no weight to the increase of costs, particularly labor costs that are associated with bus routes where there are stop and start, stop and start, stop and start and small distances, it takes more time. And as you all know, stop and start type of operations are much more difficult on vehicles than are long mileage kinds of situations where most of the miles are highway miles and don't wear down your brakes and your transmission and all those parts of the vehicle that wear down much faster when you're in a high density bus route situation. I don't know, we certainly are not going to put up an amendment at this point in time and, I guess, everybody's going to look at the overall compromise before there are any further decisions made on this item. But I just wanted to point out to you at this particular point in time that this bill is by no means in everybody's favor and there are some real compromises here, and even among proponents there are items that they would rather not have in the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR CROSBY PRESIDING

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

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Thank you, Madam President and members of the Legislature. Senator Beutler, I'm going to direct my questions to Senator Bohlke here a little bit. I do want to touch on your comments, though, a little, realize that your buses get to go on some very nice roads and streets that don't have tremendously difficult things to travel over. Most of our buses wind up going down gravel roads and mud and snow and it's