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FLOOR DEBATE

April 10, 2003 LB 367

Schrock, did you...you're giving up the rest of your time to open. We've heard the opening on the Schrock amendment to LB 367. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Schrock amendment, AM1261, to LB 367. Senators wishing to speak are Senators Schrock, Preister, Vrtiska, Tyson, and Beutler. Senator Schrock.

SENATOR SCHROCK: I want to remind the body the source of the funding for the LUST fund. At the current time, there is a nine-tenths of a cent tax on gasoline, and a three-tenths of a cent tax on diesel fuel that goes to the LUST fund. That is an ongoing source of revenue and it's for a very important federal program, call it a federal mandate, if you want, but it's for cleaning up these storage tank sites that are...that have been bothering us in the state of Nebraska. Most of you have had a site cleaned up with the LUST fund, an abandoned gas station that's had leaky tanks, they come in and clean it up. That's the purpose of the fund. It's a worthwhile purpose. We don't enjoy doing this, but considering the circumstances, we thought that this was the most prudent way to come up with \$300,000 for a very important purpose. So with that, I would answer any questions you may try to ask.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Schrock. Senator Preister.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. I rise in support of the amendment, the compromise that we're doing here. Not because my heart is fully in taking the money out of the LUST trust fund, because we run into problems with that fund before when we took money out of it. But I believe it's a good compromise to use the funds from that fund because there is a correlation between the lead that was in gasoline and the funding going to deal with lead contamination. We do have some children in the eastern part of the city that are currently being exposed to high lead levels from more than one source. Omaha is being not only considered but I think the designation is either made or almost made to consider a certain section of Omaha as a superfund site. Money will come in to address some of the lead abatement problems in that superfund area, but it does not cover lead-based paint. That's what this money is