

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 408

Trust Fund goes to keeping me out of a snowdrift during the summer...during the wintertime. These roads are important to outstate Nebraska. They are important to the transportation industry of Nebraska. They are important directly to a good many of us, and indirectly to all of us. The Department of Roads Trust Fund is something that was set up with a plan in mind. Not as a cow to be milked, but as a way of providing the economic sustenance that feeds us all. And I would submit to you, ladies and gentlemen, that this is an unwise, very, very short-term view. And I would close by reminding you of what Lord Keynes said. Someone said, but Lord Keynes, what about the long run? He was an economist at Breton Woods. He said, oh, in the long run, we're all dead. I would like to be alive to see some of these roads finished that connect Nebraskans with one another, and sustain the economy of this state. And I urge you to vote against the Thompson amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Tyson. Mr. Clerk, item.

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Thompson would move to amend her amendment. (FA1361, Legislative Journal page 1819.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Thompson to open on your amendment to your amendment.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. The amendment which I have put up cuts this in half. And I'll be distributing shortly the numbers for that. But essentially, if you look at the goldenrod piece of paper, just divide those numbers in two. This would be a cut of \$16.9 million per year, or a total on the balance of...on the state budget, of \$33.8 million. Senator Bromm asked me what my purpose was. My purpose is to make another cut in the budget. If someone at some other...this is just part of the big total that we're doing to try to get there. If someone...I don't have any intention of putting any amendments up to restore funds. But if somebody else does and wants to pull back a bill on Final Reading, that's your choice. I'm not directing how this goes. This is a cut. It's like a cut to every other agency in state government. And now, with this amendment, it's a pretty modest cut. But it gets us closer to closing the gap, and it gets us