

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

May 14, 2003

LB 408

programs. And it wasn't always a fund that had the sales tax. We added sales tax, and that's how we fund all of state government. They were the only ones that got what we call an earmark. But that is the fund that we used to...as a state funding source, state sales tax. So it's totally appropriate that we can look to this fund for a cut. And I hear from people, make more cuts. This is an opportunity to do that. A lot of the programs...I mean, we're hearing about the road between Omaha and Lincoln. That will only be scheduled when the federal money becomes available. So saying that this funding will back up anything may or may not be true. Senator Wehrbein, I'd like to ask you a question.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Wehrbein, would you respond?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Yes.

SENATOR THOMPSON: We've had discussions in our committee, and we had a hearing on this topic, of trying to figure out really how much money there is at the Department of Roads by specific projects. Do you remember that discussion?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: Oh, kind of. Yes. (Laugh)

SENATOR THOMPSON: It's pretty difficult to nail down, wasn't it? I don't know that you can say that every dime that goes in in this year's budget is going to go for a road project. Do you believe you can say that? In this biennium?

SENATOR WEHRBEIN: No, because there would be some building construction, some things like that, that we also pass on, occasional snow shed...I mean, a sand shed, or those kinds of things. And equipment.

SENATOR THOMPSON: Exactly. Thank you. This fund is used for a lot of things, for putting up storage shacks, for mowing the areas for the rest stops. There's all sorts of things that are done, other than actually building a road with this money. But this is a moving target. We've been...it's impossible to nail down because of the scheduling issues. So this doesn't even mean that anything is going to change a whole lot for any of