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FLOOR DEBATE

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work between Columbus and Fremont, or maybe finish the project between Pilger and West Point so that we can get people traveling into our metro areas easier and faster, and back and forth. I have been frustrated with the process, and I understand we have statewide needs. I don't want to take anything away from Omaha; I don't want to take anything away from Lincoln. Each of those communities is growing, and we as a state are responsible for making sure they have the infrastructure to grow...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR FLOOD: ...as we want them to. But I would ask you to think about the opportunities that exist with a Hastings-to-McCook four-lane expressway, or maybe Nebraska City to Omaha, or maybe Columbus to Fremont, or Norfolk to South Sioux City. We're willing to wait our turn, as long as we see some progress in the expressway system, but eight years from now is not acceptable. And if we don't recognize that, it may be too late when they start laying the concrete. Thank you, Mr. President.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you, Senator Flood. (Visitors introduced.) On with discussion of the Johnson amendment. Senator Schrock, followed by Senator Baker and eight others.

SENATOR SCHROCK: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I want to thank Joel Johnson for bringing this issue. He's spent unending hours meeting with chambers of commerces and municipalities. This is the north/south corridor we never had in Nebraska. We never got a north/south interstate; it went to Iowa. And if we're going to grow that area of the state, you can't do without good roads, and if you've ever tried to go to South Sioux City from Holdrege, Nebraska, it doesn't happen. You know, they talk about the traffic on Highway 6 between Hastings and McCook. There's not a lot of traffic on that road, unless the interstate is closed. I tried that the other day when I came to town. There's a lot of trucks on Highway 6. But you take the highway between Elm Creek and Holdrege, that's a pretty busy road because people come from the south and connect with the interstate. Well, you can force them to drive through