

Because I have had a running battle going all summer to try and get some adjustment for a couple of sign owners in my area. Do you...is this the cost related to the permit system that you are mentioning or is it the total cost of the removal of the signs?

SENATOR KREMER: I asked the department of roads if they would attempt to give us some type of figure as to the estimated cost that would have to be assumed by the department of roads and they gave me the figure of \$20,000 and that would represent 25% of the total cost. In other words then the total cost would be about 80,000 dollars.

SENATOR LEWIS: Then we are talking about the permit system and not reimbursing the sign owners for the removal of the signs?

SENATOR KREMER: This is the cost for the removal of the signs. Now I would imagine that they mean the reimbursement to the person who erected the sign.

SENATOR LEWIS: As I understand it they have a budget of \$300,000 presently to reimburse these sign owners and this is only a partial payment.

SENATOR KREMER: But Senator Lewis these signs are being depreciated each year and their value becomes less, and less the longer that they are there.

SENATOR LEWIS: This is one of the reasons that I am a little upset about it because the longer they delay in these settlements the more they are depreciated and the less you see that is going to be paid. It is detrimental to the sign owner and it really has no bearing on this particular bill I guess but they have been unable to rent these signs too because of an uncertain time that they are going to be available. But I just wanted to establish this point. If we are talking about only \$20,000 fiscal impact or I think that it is far greater than that if we are talking about the removal of all of the signs.

SENATOR KREMER: Senator Lewis, I am just using the figure that was given to me by the department. It is the only knowledge that I have about it.

SENATOR LEWIS: Well I have had several meetings with the department and this is what I am basing my figures on.

PRESIDENT: Senator Carpenter.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Let me ask Senator Lewis a question. I'm trying to be helpful to you. I don't know whether we can or not but it seems to me that in the area that you are concerned about, I think that all of us should be, in the area where these signs are located. The department shouldn't be allowed to arbitrarily go out and put a fictitious name on a sign and move it. I would think that maybe you could amend this bill to make it subject to condemnation, so that the people could then go into court and get what the value of the sign was plus whatever loss they might be confronted with as a result of moving the sign itself. There is more than the loss of the sign. To some extent you are putting a number of people at least you are curtailing their business. Now it seems to me that when the state comes in that either the federal government