

(start belt #3)

PRESIDENT: Senator Whitney.

SENATOR WHITNEY: Mr. President, members of the legislature this then would read on the first point that the legislature of the state of Nebraska urges the Federal Government to support an increase in freight rates to offset the additional costs of operation of the trucking industry. Now I was here yesterday when a gentleman got up and spoke, a Trucker. He said that they still could increase the rates by 5% and he would not loose very much business. He said that the interstate commerce commission or whoever it is that makes the decision had permitted them to have a 3% increase in freight rates and that wasn't enough. In order to take care of the additional fuel costs which he said rose from about 35¢ a gallon for diesel fuel two or three months ago to 44¢ now which is a 9¢ increase to take care of that it would have required a 5.6% increase in the freight rates. So what happened was that the price agency that permitted them to go up 3% should have allowed them to go up at least 6% and maybe even a little bit more. I know that we don't like to have that kind of increase in freight rate, but I also know that we like to have diesel fuel. I buy several thousands of gallons of diesel fuel each year. I would rather pay 9¢ more and be able to farm that ground than to be sitting there and not be able to farm that ground. The truckers should need to have the opportunity of driving the trucks and obviously they will loose a little bit of money, that is loose a little business if it goes up an extra say three to five percent but the shippers have got to pay it. In other words we are in a period of inflation. We have found out that the federal government says that we have got to permit an increase in diesel fuel and gas prices in order to bring forth production. Now I feel that since the government has said that that we have got to figure out some other way of making it possible to take care of the truckers and that is to let them have an increase in freight rates. Now then we may have also we may have to also allow the railroads to have an increase in rates. Are you going to ask the oil companies to roll back the wages of those people who are workers and have got increases in wages? Recently? About 80% of the cost of the price of anything is wages. You can't roll back the wages, you can't roll back these costs. So the thing to do is just simply permit the truckers and the railroad industry to have a little increase in freight rates. That is the only way that you can bring forth this production of oil. Now lets take Gulf Oil Company for example. They have got a little of a...a...they have got a lot of investment in Kuwait what is Kuwait doing? What is that foreign country doing? It is nationalizing their industries. It is taking them away from them. That is one of the reasons the costs have gone up. We can't go over to Kuwait with our armies and take over the country and say you can't steal our investments there. We just don't do it that way. As a consequence the oil companies have discovered that their costs are higher than they have been in the past. I feel that the only solution is to recommend to the federal government that we permit the truckers to increase their freight rates and obviously the shippers will have to pay it.

PRESIDENT: We now then have the Whitney amendment to discuss and Senator F. Carstens, do you want to debate the Whitney amendment here?