

February 25, 1974

(Begin Belt #8)

with respect to withholding funds. Can we gamble and set the speed limit of trucks or any other kind of vehicle at any other rate than that is set by the act itself? And his answer was no, he did not think we should gamble with it. That's exactly what we are doing. I want to call your attention to the act itself. Public Law 93-239 and I'm quoting now, "After the 60th day after the date of the amendment of this act, the Secretary of Transportation shall not approve any project under the Secretary of Transportation or under the section....." Let me start over again. I missed the line with these bifocals, they're new. "After the 60th day after the date of the enactment of this act, the Secretary of Transportation shall not approve any project under Section 106 of Title 23 of the United States code in any state which sets a maximum speed limit on any public highway within its jurisdiction." And that applies to all motor vehicles. Now, what we're going to do here in my opinion is jeopardize these funds. I'd like to share with you also additional information I have been able to get from the Department of Roads, from the Highway Commission, and other people that have been concerned about the passage of this legislation. It would put us in a position so we would not cause these highway allocation funds to be in jeopardy. Here's another one, "Failure to pass a speed limit law that would be acceptable in the federal emergency legislation would have the following effect upon the federal financing of highway in Nebraska." Here's what they go on to say, "None of the unobligated \$69 million in federal funds appropriated to Nebraska or the \$53 million additional anticipated to be apportioned to Nebraska by December 31, 1974, will be approved for contracting until the emergency is declared over." Now, this affects the approval of all highway constructions in Nebraska as well as streets and roads in counties and I feel strongly that the amendment offered by Senator DeCamp is going to place these highway funds in jeopardy. I think that we should not fool with it, I think we will be in trouble if we do and therefore, I have to oppose his amendments and all other amendments. I think we ought to pass this bill LB873 and get the thing on the way.

PRESIDENT: Senator Fred Carstens, you wish to speak on this amendment?

SENATOR FRED CARSTENS: I want to make a...Mr. President, I don't want to speak on the amendment. I wanted to ask, I want to make sure, I want to ask Senator Kremer a question if he will yield.

PRESIDENT: Senator Kremer, will you yield to a question?

SENATOR CARSTENS: Senator Kremer, without this amendment as you have proposed the bill a minute ago, is it correct that that would fix the speed limit, the maximum speed limit, at 55 m.p.h. upon this bill becoming law and it would remain that way until changed by the Legislature?

SENATOR KREMER: No, it will remain that way until the emergency ends. Or June 30, 1975, whichever arrives first.

SENATOR CARSTENS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Mr. President, very briefly I'd like to speak in opposition of the amendment. I think it's going to jeopardize our federal funds and I think it's a foolish thing to do.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion of the DeCamp amendment? If not, Senator DeCamp, do you wish to close on your amendment? Senator DeCamp. Senator DeCamp is closing on his amendment.