

March 26, 1974

they have. Whatever is there can be used immediately for that particular purpose.

SENATOR KREMER: One other question if I may. We are all aware of the cost of building roads has gone up considerably. In fact, it has skyrocketed. Now what's this going to do to our 6 year and our 20 year plan as far as the plans for building our additional highways and roads in our state?

SENATOR CARPENTER: I don't think anything because they're not complying with it anyway. Based upon need and sufficiency of the plan as it was originally adopted.

SENATOR KREMER: Now your proposal does say this is for one year only? It would apply for only one year?

SENATOR CARPENTER: That's right.

SENATOR KREMER: Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Well, Mr. President, I want to ask somebody that can tell me and I have talked to Senator Stromer and Senator Marvel. I wish Senator Warner was here. We read a lot in the paper about Nebraska not matching all of its federal funds. It seems to be a great issue when you get on one side of it. Now I want to know if there's anybody in here that can tell me that we haven't put out enough of our state funds to match every dollar of federal funds that's available. And also, Senator Carpenter, if we build these roads up to federal specifications, can we use the roads we have built next year as matching funds to the money that will come in from the federal government if it ever comes? I want somebody to make it clear to the people across this state whether there's skullduggery or what it is going on. Because if the funds are available on the federal level and we're not matching them, I want to know why if we've got surplus. And if they're not, I want to know why.

SENATOR CARPENTER: I have been told by the department, who I believe, that the State of Nebraska since its inception insofar as their knowledge is concerned, has always matched every dollar. And that's the area in which you asked the question. For the building of highways in the State of Nebraska. We've never lost a single federal dollar.

SENATOR KEYES: Well, I think that ought to go out across the news of this state and let the people know we have not failed. We have matched every dollar of federal funds that's available.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Now, in answer to that, I would ask Senator Burbach who was a knowledgeable person in the field of highways...or Senator Marvel who is the chairman of the Budget Committee if that isn't their understanding also.

PRESIDENT: Senator Burbach.

SENATOR BURBACH: Senator Carpenter is entirely right. And I'm sure you were talking of highway funds, weren't you, Senator Keyes? The State of Nebraska has never lost any, when we're talking farm to market road for example, there is a provision in the law that we can switch from a county if a county does not use it for whatever purpose they decide. Another county can have these funds. Even in the case where another