

March 26, 1974

SENATOR F. LEWIS: We're talking in terms of diverting highway funds which was the specific purpose of the bill that was introduced by the Urban Affairs Committee and I wonder if you would be in concurrence with perhaps diverting some of this funds...some of these funds that are available in surplus into mass transit at this time.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Well, the difference is that mass transit will only apply to a relative few locations in the State of Nebraska. The Highway Patrol spreads this state like a blanket, that's the difference.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Thank you, I understand the circumstances now. Mr. Clerk, I will have an amendment prepared shortly.

SENATOR CARPENTER: Let me say, Mr. President, one thing. I would request when we get to that point that the bill be held over until tomorrow...only for one purpose. This is a highly important amendment. He may or may not want to adopt it. And I don't want to be in the position of having him do something....you do something you might regret. I think you ought to go to other sources besides me and you shouldn't take me, that I know everything about it, because I don't. I understand the surplus, I understand what the federal's done, I understand there are some options. I'm only bringing it to your attention basically. If you want to adopt a policy of spending 100% of state funds for highways which have been approved by the federal government insofar as location and construction and conditions are concerned. May I suggest, Mr. President, we leave this like it is and we leave it rest and go on with another amendment I have and then hold this amendment and the bill until tomorrow in order to give those an opportunity to check with whoever they desire to check with, be sure you know what you're doing and what you might want to do.

PRESIDENT: Yes, Senator, will you hold that? There have been two that have had their lights on. Senator Stull and then Senator Nore.

SENATOR STULL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. The problem is that we don't get enough federal money to match the state funds and right now Nebraska is in the process of suing the federal government so that we can get money that we have in federal trust funds. Now the counties also have part of this federal money set aside for them and in case the counties fail to use their share of this money, it reverts to the State Highway Department. So there's never been any trust funds lost in that area either. But I think we would be breaking faith with the people of the State of Nebraska if we divert any of this money from State Highway trust funds. We passed a number of bills in 1969 setting up our road building program and I think that we need to keep this money in trust fund. If we get this additional revenue from the federal government well they're going to need this money. They have the projects on the drawing board. The problem right now is that we lack the federal funds so I would certainly be opposed to transferring any money, not even a dollar from that highway trust fund because there's going to be a need for it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Nore.

SENATOR NORE: Mr. President and fellow members. There seems to be sort of a credibility gap as to.....

(End of Belt 9)