

in recreation should have their funds taken for this kind of construction?

SENATOR BURBACH: Of course we can use that in reverse too, are there some people who never use the interstate and yet all of Nebraskans have paid for the interstate.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Thank you Senator Burbach.

PRESIDENT: Senator Stahmer, did you want to be heard again? Senator Nore, are you going to want to speak again? Chair understands that this is 1053 on Select File on the way up. Senator Stahmer.

SENATOR STAHMER: Would Senator Burbach yield to a question? Senator Burbach, this isn't designed to put you on the spot, I'm going to put myself on the spot then ask you if you want to jump on that same spot. I'm not necessarily opposed to what you are trying to do here to get more recreational roads but what bothers me is the member of budget committee that the people in the highway department admit that a our road program is going backwards because of the supremely high cost of road construction. We are not holding our own, we are going backwards. My question is that I think if we want our road program to stay on top or even keel in order to build more recreational access roads, I think that we need a $\frac{1}{2}$ ¢ or a 1¢ gas increase. I would favor myself just to keep our highway program from going into the shatters that it is now going into and I just wonder if you would be willing to support something that would get us enough taxes to do a decent job in the whole highway area plus trying to do something with the access roads.

SENATOR BURBACH: I must be very frank with you Senator Stahmer, I could not support a cent gas tax increase, for several reasons. One of them, among several reasons but one of them is I have went through this process in the past. I have introduced a bill where we would ear mark the funds from cigarettes a six-tenths of a cent. If you will recall I explained earlier and that fund was to be kept in tact for that purpose. It was not, by the action of this body. Now I am asking that we reinstate it through a highway program and I wonder if we can really justify the difference in our own minds, a road to a recreational area or the state highway system. I think that they are both an obligation of the state and I think that this is a sound way of arriving at the funds necessary for promotion. This isn't for the individual necessarily, this produces revenue itself in the form of sales tax, and the purchase of various equipment so that Nebraskans will have a place to attend and to go to in their free and leisure time.

SENATOR STAHMER: I would merely like to close by saying that I wonder if the people of this state realize that the situation we are in with highway construction and maintenance. I think that if they were to realize that there road program was going backwards I wonder what kind of letters they would be sending to their Senators. I fear not enough people in here have the courage to stand up and do what needs to be done.

PRESIDENT: Are you all through discussing the proposed amendment to LB1053? Senator Burbach, I wonder if you have any closing to LB1053? Senator Burbach is now closing on his amendment to 1053, on Select File.