

March 6, 1979

LB 404

the bill and I am kind of disappointed in my colleague, Senator Keyes, in being so critical of our county officials. Really don't need any enemies with love like that. But it would seem to me that times change and the 25¢ is ridiculous. A dollar is much more realistic and the fact that all people in the county do not require a license makes those that do require one at least pay their share of it. I don't know what the percentage is in the counties but I guess it would probably be less than half of the people that actually own a vehicle in their own name. So I support the bill. Thank you.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Keyes, did you wish to close? No, I guess it is Senator Carsten that wants to close isn't it? Senator Kremer, you are going to close.

SENATOR KREMER: Don't let Keyes close whatever you do. In answer to Senator Keyes, there is an additional tax here in the 25¢ that comes right back to the Highway Trust Fund, this is true, and that would be a quarter of the registered vehicles in the State of Nebraska and there is something over a million of them. Now we need to be aware of what is happening in the cost of the maintaining, the maintenance and the building of our roads, both state and county, both state and local. This 25¢ will help. Now we are going to consider a bill that'll raise the gas tax one cent. I believe that came out of committee. So this 25¢ actual that comes to Highway Trust Fund is an additional tax. Other than that, it is not an additional tax, Senator Keyes, because the processing of a motor vehicle license has to be paid for no matter how and it is only more fair that the owner of the vehicle pays for this rather than going to a tax that is taken from real estate or something of that nature to supplement what we do not allow the counties to retain in the processing of this license fee. So we are not talking about additional money other than the 25¢ which, in my opinion, is going to be needed as the cost of the maintenance of our highways continue to increase. It will help out a little bit on that. Other than that, there is no additional money because it is going to have to be paid for. If it costs the counties as they told us that it did, I have no reason to believe they are not telling the truth, they submitted evidence. I used the term one dollar. I think it was a little bit short of that. I think one of the other speakers addressed themselves to that, something around 95¢, but it was close to a dollar. So I think in my opinion and the opinion of the committee, it was only fair that those that are getting the service pay for the service rather than it being subsidized by some other form of tax. I move that LB 404, again I move it be