

March 21, 1979

LB 42

So I am going to withdraw that amendment when it comes up and ask for unanimous consent. I am going to support Senator Cullan's amendment at this time and support the bill as amended because I think it is the best thing we can do. But I want to raise a red flag at this point that I know I am going to be looking at that railroad crossing fund and I am going to be saying, what are you doing with that money? Why aren't you doing something about this problem? I want to see something happening in the State of Nebraska in improved safety at our railroad crossings because it is going to be more and more of a problem as railroad traffic increases and I want the Roads Department to know that somebody down here in the Legislature is going to be on top of that and I know Senator Cullan is going to join me in that effort and I hope all of you will keep an eye on that fund and what is happening with railroad crossing safety. I want some action on that. I think that this bill is a really positive step to deal with a serious problem in this state.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Madam President and colleagues, a question of Senator Wesely.

SENATOR MARSH: Senator Wesely, will you yield?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR DWORAK: As I understand, your amendment would have shifted from local to railroad participation?

SENATOR WESELY: Yes.

SENATOR DWORAK: If we adopt Senator Cullan's amendment, the local participation is going to be at two and a half percent and what we are doing is equalizing the funding between regardless of whether it is a federal project or whether it is a state project and I am in support of Senator Cullan's amendment, but what I am in opposition of is we are shifting from the local to the state. I like your idea of shifting from the local to the railroad and I have not heard much opposition in this being done and so I would like to urge you, Senator Wesely, to go ahead with your amendment rather than drop it and make that shift after Senator Cullan's amendment is adopted here, and if you don't want to do it, I will do it. I will put the amendment up but you have the amendment drawn up, you are familiar with it and I would like to urge you to do that.