

over those lines. It was a reasonable approach and one which I think could be justified. As Senator Kremer has pointed out, there is some concern about the utilization of state funds in this area but he is entirely right. If we do not spend some state funds in this area, we are going to spend a hundred times as much money on roads and bridges and we will still not achieve the desired result. As I said, I do not think LB 507 goes as far as I want it to but it is a first step and it is a step in the right direction. There may even been a caboose we can put on some of those grain trains, Senator Lewis, so that we can haul some passengers. I think it is only a matter of time until passenger service is going to have to be looked at as a very logical next step in solving the transportation problem. \$2 a gallon gasoline is just over the horizon, and unless we make some real efforts, we are going to find ourselves afoot or on horseback, you can take your pick. I support the amendments. I support the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Keyes.

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, I agree with some of the things that Senator Schmit has said, especially about the transportation of grain or anything else in the State of Nebraska. We are going to have to find some way to tax them to bring through some of the money to take care of the things that are needed. Now this question I have of Senator Kremer, if I could find Senator Kremer. Senator Kremer, if there is one thing that I wonder about this bill, it is back in Section 12, "There is hereby created the Branch Rail Revitalization Council," to consist of so many people appointed by the Governor and approved. Last year the Governor of the State of Nebraska and myself worked together after certain groups had tried to kill the Department of Planning and Programming. It was successfully killed and we installed instead the Office of Policy Research headed by Don Stenberg. Now this is exactly what Don is supposed to be doing, going out and looking after, seeing about the federal funds and all of that, and why, if we have an office set up last year that is functioning with a head, do we need another office. I can't understand why. I think Don is very capable with the leadership of the Governor to set up and operate this and get it going instead of having to create another bureaucracy. Senator Kremer, you can comment on that.

SENATOR KREMER: Is that a question? I will say this.

SENATOR KEYES: I ask you to comment on (interruption).