

February 21, 1980

LB 619

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, Senator Newell, go ahead.

SENATOR NEWELL: Just briefly, I'd just like to explain what sort of shape the bill is in presently. It is a ban on the sale of studded snow tires which will begin August 31, 1980. There are a number of exemptions. The actual ban of the use of studded snow tires will not go into effect until after the winter of 1982. It provides for the Department of Roads, the Maintenance Division, to set up a process for allowing those few people that are exempt, the public safety vehicles, vehicles driven in emergency, medical personnel, rural mail carriers and those who are handicapped with a wheelchair designation to be able to continue to buy studded snow tires, sets up a sticker system in which that can be done which is very similar to one that we use now for trucks and so forth. Basically that will be run by the Department of Roads in their area offices. They have eight area offices, Lincoln, Omaha, Norfolk, Grand Island, Ainsworth, North Platte, McCook and Bridgeport and it authorizes the Department of Roads to authorize dealers who could provide the studs for those people who are exempted, and lastly but not leastly and very importantly, it sets up a \$30 citation for the illegal use of studded snow tires after the 1982 winter which is a maximum which has no court cost. It is just a maximum \$30 fine so it is not outrageously expensive in the process. With that, that is the way the bill presently reads and I will let the debate continue.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Labedz.

SENATOR LABEDZ: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I didn't have the opportunity the other day because I wasn't present to speak on LB 619 which bans the use of studded snow tires. Senator Newell just mentioned the exemptions that are now on the bill, and as far as I am concerned, there is not enough. I would like to see an amendment, possibly if it wasn't so ridiculous, I would introduce an amendment to exempt lady senators that have to drive 120 miles a day to get here to Lincoln every day. The other day in the Appropriations Committee I left a little bit early, the day of the ice and sleet that we had all day long. As I got onto the interstate I noticed all of the semis in the ditches and cars. My little Granada drove from Lincoln to Omaha without sliding once and I just had some new studded snow tires put on my car. He said it looks like a Mercedes, it does, but it is a very light car, and as I go down the highway, we talk about wear and tear on the highway, I notice the big transports, the big trucks