

February 21, 1980

LB 619

SENATOR REUTZEL: How about Missouri? Do you know what the status is there?

SENATOR NEWELL: Legislation...it is pending.

SENATOR REUTZEL: And Iowa the same way, so we have legislation introduced in some of the surrounding states.

SENATOR NEWELL: That is correct.

SENATOR REUTZEL: But we don't know that it is going to pass so what we do here in Nebraska, if we pass this bill, we have got South Dakota and Wyoming which allow studded tires. Every other state around us, we have no idea if they are going to outlaw it at all. Given probably an election year and short sessions everywhere, it is probably not an issue that is going to be a priority issue and so what we are going to do if we pass this bill, we are going to be a little white spot surrounded by states which allow studded tires, and what is that going to do to the people coming into the state? We have got people traveling our interstate highways and crisscrossing Nebraska going from these different states and we will still have the same problem. If we are tearing up the roads, they are going to continue it. The point is I think that the map that was handed out is somewhat misleading and I would hate to jump in on this and do away with something if the surrounding states and every surrounding state is going to continue with the use of studded tires. I think it is too early to say what these other states are going to do. I think the map is misleading. I think we'd be making a mistake by advancing this bill and passing this into law and I would urge not to advance the bill.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cope and then Senator Merz.

SENATOR COPE: Mr. President, members, when this bill first came up, I thought I am going to fight it because I have studded tires on and I think I like them. I do when it is icy which isn't too seldom but then after we started discussing it I had to go to Omaha and I saw what studded tires have done to the streets and what the Highway Department on the interstate have had to do to help correct it by cutting out the ridges and the road till it scares me as to the cost that the State of Nebraska is encumbered with. That was the first point. The second point, the other day a good friend of mine, Gary Keim, who is a state trooper, was visiting here in the Legislature and we were discussing this bill and I asked Gary, I said, what do you