

SENATOR CLARK: The Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. President, members of the body, we have had a lot of information passed out to us about the effects of the studs on the highway and the safety factor and how they don't really increase our safety factor, in fact, has a negative effect on safety because we feel overconfident. Well there was an extensive study of some of these questions done by the Calspan Corporation, an independent research organization under the sponsorship of the State of Minnesota Department of Highways, and I would like to point out that Minnesota is one of the leading opponents of studded tires but they sponsored this independent research group. The Calspan study concluded the likelihood of precipitating an accident due to the sliding on icy or snowy roads was least for studded tired vehicles. Another test sponsored by the Transportation Research Center in Ohio and done by the University concluded there is little evidence of a significantly adverse effect of studded tires upon stopping distances on dry pavement. All of this contrary to the information which we have been bombarded with by Senator Newell and those who would like to do away with the studded tires on our highways. Now let's say for example, let's just give the benefit of the doubt and say that there is increased road wear with studs and we have a very few vehicles using the studded tires but yet we have exempted more vehicles out from this bill, Senator Newell's bill, because they do recognize it does have some safety features but we have exempted mail carriers et cetera, but let's say that there is some tire wear from the 5% or so of the people that use the studded tires and it may cause a slight deterioration but I think that whatever that minimal deterioration is and whatever that minimal cost is, despite the horror stories and inflated figures that Senator Newell and those have bombarded us with, whatever that cost is, I think it is well worth it if we can save a few lives and I urge you to look at these studies, the Calspan study and the Ohio study done by the University. Look at the results. Make an objective evaluation of this bill and I urge you to support Senator Venditte's motion to indefinitely postpone this bill.

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Wesely.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I think we have all been through the debate before and I think that we are seeing a