

SENATOR CLARK: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: Mr. President, members of the body, there are a lot of interesting arguments on studded snow tires and they bring a great deal of emotion, I guess, or desire to throw in various information which have little bearing on the question of whether or not this state can still afford the luxury, the luxury for approximately 10% of its population, the luxury of continued use of studded snow tires. It is a luxury, a luxury this state may have been able to afford when we were paying \$3.00 a barrel for oil, \$6.00 a barrel of oil but a luxury we cannot afford now that we are paying \$30.00 a barrel for oil. The situation is simple. It is clear. Studded snow tires provide very very little, if any, safety benefits for those 10% of the people that use them but they do create safety hazards for 90% of the people who do not use them because they rut the streets, because they create water in those ruts and because that also freezes and because that creates safety hazards for everyone else, and on the net, on the whole, when you look at the whole picture, studded snow tires for most of this population, for most of the population of the State of Nebraska are a hazard, not a help. For 10% they are a minor help in certain conditions and those conditions are limited to when you have glare ice and when the temperature is thirty-two degrees. Senator Reutzel talks about studies, studies that show studded snow tires stop on dry pavement. I have never argued that. They stop on dry pavement. So do every other kind of tire. The issue that I have always talked about is studded snow tires take 24% longer to stop on wet pavement and wet pavement is something we have far more often. Studded snow tires create those grooves in the road, holds that water. The water splashes all over and it creates safety hazards. Every state that has banned studded snow tires has found that there has been no increase in accidents and, in fact, that there has been a decrease in accidents, but the key issue to this whole thing after you get all those baloney arguments out of the way, the key issue is, can this state afford the luxury for 10% of the people that use studded snow tires, can we afford the luxury of \$12,000,000 this year to the state in cost of maintenance, \$20,000,000 when you look at all the other subdivisions and that is at \$30.00 a barrel of oil and who in this room believes that oil is going to stay at \$30.00 a barrel? I hope there are not many. I hope there are not many that believe that oil is going to stay at \$30.00 a barrel. I hope people realize that it was not more than six, eight years ago