

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: It seems like Senator Kahle is advocating a nickel amendment. Is that for a whole five cent increase, Senator Kahle? No, he is talking about the Senator Nichol amendment, one and a half cent increase. I have an amendment pending that does the same thing so I would like to go on record supporting supporting this amendment to increase the gas tax by another half cent. Senator Burrows and I had lunch with some taxpayers from our district and these people are real concerned about their new valuation of their property and I think here we have some property tax relief by giving the counties a fair share of the gas tax to keep it in the fifty three and a third percent for the state, twenty three and a third percent for the counties and twenty three and a third percent for the cities. The bridges are in bad repair and we need to help the counties to keep these bridges in repair. So I am very much in favor of the one and a half cent increase.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Schmit, do you want to discuss the gas tax?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President, I think I am in favor of what we are doing but I would like to have the Clerk explain just exactly what we are doing. I thought I would get his attention. I agree with Senator Kahle. Some people will recall a year ago that I said we should go ahead and raise the gas tax a nickel a gallon and be done with it. During the period of time we talked about it the price of gasoline went up thirty cents and it has gone up twenty cents since that time. Now the President talks about a ten cent per gallon tax nationally which he is going to use to balance the budget. I drove over Highway 15 this morning coming down here and I have been talking about that road for the last five years. It began to break up six months after we built it and I think, Mr. President, that I support the Nichol amendment but I'm not sure that it is as much as I want. It is better than what we came out of the committee with but very frankly, we are going to be riding horseback down these roads if we don't do something pretty soon. Would the Clerk give me an idea just what we do have with the Nichol amendment? A nickel here and a nickel there. I know how it goes.

CLERK: Senator, I hate to have you rely on me but I think where we are at is the committee amendments changed it from 11 to 10 $\frac{1}{2}$  cents and then Senator Carsten had an amendment that increased...I'm not sure what the effect of the