

March 31, 1980

LB 361

to at this time, raise the gasoline tax that is divided, two cents to the twelve and a half cent figure which I have proposed. Ladies and gentlemen, I want to say again I wish there were a better way to do it. I wish it were inexpensive. I wish it would not hurt but I think that we can justify it. I do not think your constituents will find fault with you. I think, in fact, they will support your efforts and recognize that it is a necessary cost of travel and that we should raise this tax to the two cent figure which I have proposed. Mr. President, I hope the body will support the amendment. Yes...

CLERK: Senator, if I may real quickly, just so I am clear with your amendment, as I understand it the bill right now is at ten and a half cents and you are trying to increase that to twelve and a half cents.

SENATOR SCHMIT: That is correct.

CLERK: Okay, thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, would Senator Schmit yield to a question?

SENATOR SCHMIT: Yes, Senator.

SENATOR LANDIS: Senator Schmit, I have given to you a copy of an amendment which was discussed on the floor previously and you had a chance to look at it. I am now having it passed out to the rest of the members of the body and let me just review with you quickly the three things that are in there and then ask you a question. The amendment was similar to the mass transportation amendment that I offered on the floor the other day. It does three things. Number one, it takes the language out of LB 704 to allow community action programs to operate, handibus and senior bus kinds of programs as a delegation of authority from counties or cities. Secondly, it allows for the shortfall between legislative appropriations and what would be full funding of the Nebraska public transportation fund to be taken from the gas tax. Third, it imposes on that maximum of \$1,000,000 that could be drawn in that way from the gas tax, recognizing also that in the last three years the amount has roughly been \$450,000 actually. The question I have for you is, will you accept that as a favorable amendment, a friendly amendment to your amendment for the two cent gas increase as part of the amendment to LB 361?