

SENATOR SCHMIT: Senator Landis, I know that there are people that have deep concern about the diversion of funds to mass transit and I share some of those concerns, however, to be realistic I believe that we are all going to change our methods and ideas over the next few years if we are going to survive from these periods of high cost of transportation. I would like to suggest that you promote a certain amount of that to open up the or to reestablish that Burlington motor that travelled between Lincoln and Columbus and we could put Senator Dworak on as a motorman and he could pick me up every morning and I would, with that in mind, I think maybe I would, in fact, I will support your amendment. I think that, again, there are those who will be critical of the idea but I believe that the problems of transportation are becoming so critical that we need to reassess where we are today and where we think we will be a year or two from now and take a look at it. If in a year or two we decide that it was not wise, we can make those corrections. If, on the other hand, we think we think we need to spend more funds in that area, we can make that correction. I will support your amendment.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, if I can use the rest of my time, let me just again reiterate the portions of the amendment that Senator Schmit has accepted. First, it allows that section of LB 704 which has been stalled which permits community action programs to operate senior bus and handibuses. I would call to the attention of the body the fact that there are existing programs in place in Ord, Broken Bow and Kearney specifically that have financial difficulties and this amendment would allow them to continue in place, it is my belief. Secondly, it allows for the Nebraska Public Transportation Fund to be fully funded. The shortfall between the legislative appropriation and full funding will be made up by these monies up to \$1,000,000, although I reiterate again, actually what we are talking about here is roughly \$450,000 over the course of the last three years. A two cent gas tax will provoke roughly eighteen and a half million dollars of new revenue from the state and what this amendment recognizes is that up to \$1,000,000 of that can be used for the subsidization of mass transportation systems in both the rural and the urban context. I am very appreciative of Senator Schmit accepting the amendment and I hope the body will examine it in the light of the long term needs of the State of Nebraska. I think it is a wise step forward and I hope you support it.

SPEAKER MARVEL: In the North balcony as a guest of Senator Nichol, it is my pleasure to introduce Emi Nyman from Lincoln. Would you stand so we may recognize you? Senator Kahle, do