

March 31, 1980

LB 722

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay. Record the vote.

CLERK: 22 ayes, 8 nays to cease debate, Mr. President.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Motion lost. Senator Cope. Senator Keyes. We are speaking to the Warner amendment to the Carsten amendment.

SENATOR KEYES: Yes, and thank those who did not vote to cease debate because I want to talk to you just a little bit about some of the things Senator Warner and the rest of us on this floor have done in the last four years. The motor vehicle gas tax receipts were eight and a half in '76; '77 they were nine and a half; '78 they were nine and a half and now in '79 they were ten and a half and now in 1980 they are going to be twelve and a half. The special fuel receipts went the same. The motor vehicle sales tax receipts, practically the same, but the various rates, motor vehicle registration fees. Did you know that they are exactly the same today as they were in 1976 though we have given the gas tax an increase? We have increased the sales tax in the last few years and it is going to go up this year if this thing is adopted and if the sales tax goes up we automatically have a sales tax on the automobile that goes to the Highway Department. We have not done one thing to the motor vehicles tax yet we have given three increases in the gas tax and the diesel fuel tax. It seems to me and I am going to ask Senator Warner if he don't think that time has arrived and instead, Senator Warner, of using your bill to increase the gas tax or the diesel tax once again, that maybe we ought to take these fees that the people pay for driving the trucks up and down the road and the cars, maybe we ought to take and increase that. We haven't increased that in three years. I don't know how many years it has been since it has been increased but I know this much. If there is justification for an increase for the build the roads today, a share of it should come in the increase in the tax on the vehicles, registration tax and so forth. Senator Warner, what is your opinion of that.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner, do you yield to a question?

SENATOR WARNER: First, Senator Keyes, I would imagine if any adjustment was to be offered for registration fees it ought to be through the introduction of a bill with the normal public hearings and so forth. Secondly, though, using reliance on fuel probably more fairly reflects a user