

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, I did not speak. I passed because I wanted to speak on the bill. I have several questions of Senator Warner. I have concern about this bill. Senator Warner, is there a chance we will have political roads if this bill passes? Then it will be up to the Legislature to decide what funds will be used where. Will the Legislature be telling the Department of Roads which roads need to be built? Presently the commission has that sayso and it they are going to depend on funding from here won't they be listening to us where the money should go?

SENATOR WARNER: Senator Mares, there is no greater or lesser possibility of as you "political roads" be built under 722 than any other mechanism for funding. Now as a matter of fact, the probability of political roads as you have described them was essentially eliminated by the highway package in 1969 which sets out a very as free as you can, free a political influence system for what roads and how they are maintained as far as which roads are going to be worked on during the course of a year through the public hearing, the one and five year programs that you are aware of and have appeared on many instances. I would have a tremendous concern if we were to have the political roads that we had in the '30s and I can give you some first-hand stories about some of those and if I thought in any way that 722 returned to that kind of a concept or for that matter, 361 or any other piece of legislation, I would be vigorously opposed and I have absolutely no concern whatsoever that this would lead to any more political road than we now have and in no way would it affect that.

SENATOR MARESH: How will the Legislature be involved in determining how much money should go to the roads? Will it be up to the Appropriations Committee to work with the Department of Roads to determine what amount should be allocated?

SENATOR WARNER: As you are now aware, Senator Mares, the Department of Roads, through the systems, the Highway Advisory Commission adopts a one and five year program that is done prior to the time that the Legislature meets and as a matter of fact the appropriation request that we now received are based upon that anticipated one year work program and what would happen then is that we would approve the level of funding for that total one year program. We did not get in as we do not now, get into whether road number one or number two is going to be approved a particular year. The process would be identical that we have always had. The only issue would be is what level of funding. Now the real key to the level of funding rests in how much road program is to be done