

April 9, 1980

LB 722

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Reutzel, do you wish to be recognized on the Warner motion?

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I would be very brief. It seems to be the password nowadays. I would oppose the motion and I oppose the bill and I also oppose LB 361 because we had a bill in here that we passed with 27 votes dealing with the ban on studded snow tires and the biggest argument when we passed that bill was we were going to save ten or twelve million dollars a year in road maintenance and so that snowballed right through the Legislature. So now that we are going to save ten or twelve million dollars in road maintenance, now we have got bills in to increase the gas tax because we need more money for road maintenance. Now there is no questioning the fact that gasoline sales are down, people are becoming more economy minded, cars are becoming more fuel efficient and, therefore, revenue is down somewhat but that is not going to continue on a downward spiral forever and now what we want to do is add on more tax when we have just eliminated, if we are going to believe the sponsors of the bill to ban studded snow tires, we are going to eliminate the need for ten to twelve million dollars a year in road maintenance. And I say that ten or twelve million dollars a year goes a long ways towards that decrease making up that difference in that decrease in the gasoline tax. I oppose the motion. I oppose the bill and I will also oppose LB 361.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Murphy.

SENATOR MURPHY: A question of my good friend Senator Warner. Senator Warner, you know that old saw about the fifty-fifty horse and rabbit stew, one horse and one rabbit. You are proposing one cent to be split between the cities and the counties which would be the equivalent of the one cent of the two cents that would be split, but in terms of total amount, you are proposing a one-sixth percent of the increase in your proposition as against one-quarter or roughly that of the increase in the two cent tax. Am I misstating that? If the cities and counties get a half a cent out of six cents, they are getting, each of them is going to get one-sixth of the three cents, I should say, as opposed to getting a quarter of a cent out of the two cents.

SENATOR WARNER: Where does the six cents come from?

SENATOR MURPHY: I am sorry, one-sixth of the three cents. They will get a half a cent out of three which is one-sixth.