

April 9, 1980

LB 722

SENATOR HABERMAN: He is going to now.

SENATOR NICHOL: Excuse me, they look alike.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Okay, go ahead, Senator Haberman.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Thank you. A question of Senator Warner. Does this amendment raise the gas tax to three cents?

SENATOR WARNER: No, this amendment as proposed raises the gas tax one cent per gallon. 722...

SENATOR HABERMAN: But when we put all...if we adopt your amendment, then the gas tax will go to three cents?

SENATOR WARNER: 722 as it is in the body of the bill would have come out as 1.8 cent increase as of today, so the combined tax would be 2.8 cents per gallon.

SENATOR HABERMAN: 2.8, let's say 3 cents. Okay, is that all right?

SENATOR WARNER: Well, I'd just call it 2.8.

SENATOR HABERMAN: I am going to have to say, fellow Senators, that let's stop and think for a minute now. Senator Newell guaranteed or told us that the State Highway Department would save twelve million dollars a year if we banned studded tires. Okay, we have banned studded tires, therefore, the Highway Department is going to have an extra twelve million dollars a year. Before we tried to combine 361 and 722, we had a choice of raising the gas tax two cents on either bill but now we are caught to raise it three cents plus giving the State Highway Department the extra twelve million dollars. I think we are buying a pig in a poke and I think the people are getting sick and tired of us sandbagging them saying we are giving them something, that the Highway Department needs something, when we are overloading the circuits. So I am going to have to oppose giving them or raising the gas tax three cents plus we are already giving them the twelve million. Personally, it would be hard for me to even support the two cent gas tax but I would do that. I cannot support the three cent on top of giving them twelve million dollars when we banned the studded tires. So I ask you to vote against Senator Warner's amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Nichol and then Senator Cope and then we are going to recess.