

April 14, 1980

LB 361

This is a simple formula. We are all used to it and I think we ought to stick by it. If we go the other way, the 722 route, it is a hidden tax. This way if we adopt 361 we can post the cents per gallon right on the pump and the people, the citizens of Nebraska, will know exactly how much gas tax they are paying. They will realize how much it takes to keep our roads up. Also this bill leaves the responsibility up to this body. It doesn't shove the responsibility to the State Board of Equalization. I think if the people want to complain about their taxes, they should be able to come to their State Senator and say this is too much or this is not enough, we want to change this, and so I say to this body, let's keep the gas tax simple, let's adopt LB 361 as amended with the Maresh amendment.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Who...there is one minute left.

SENATOR HEFNER: Senator Cullan would like to talk a little bit.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Cullan.

SENATOR CULLAN: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, briefly, I think you should put this bill across to Final Reading so that we have the option to make a philosophical choice as to whether we want to be the body that sets the gas tax in the State of Nebraska through this process or whether we want it to be a function of the appropriation system where in fact that could affect decisions as far as where roads are placed now. The system works well now. The only problem that we have is that we haven't put enough gas tax money there. This is I think the preferable philosophy. This is the one that is most accountable. I hope that you would give us a chance to see this bill enacted.

SPEAKER MARVEL: The motion is the Maresh amendment to LB 361. Okay, all those in favor of the Maresh amendment to LB 361 vote aye, opposed vote no. Have you all voted? Have you all voted? We are voting on the Maresh amendment to 361. Senator Maresh.

SENATOR MARESH: We will have to have a Call of the House, Mr. Speaker.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Shall the House go under Call? All those in favor vote aye, opposed no. Record.