

Legislature. Thank you very much.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Warner, do you wish to be recognized?

SENATOR WARNER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I just want to briefly repeat because anything I've said should not be interpreted as not recognizing or not having a concern about the needs for additional funds for construction and maintenance of the roads in Nebraska because they are...well over four thousand some odd miles are now sub-standard. We have a tremendous backlog of improvements at the state level that are needed as well as the same situation sometimes at the county and city levels. All I want to emphasize, this is \$4 million one time, one year. Now you can get \$4 million every year by voting against those bills that will be before you later that divert money from highway construction. You can get three to five million every year from now on if not more by tightening up the collection on motor fuels, particularly those areas of diesel, propane and I think I saw a story where there will be fleet vehicles offered for sale this coming year that runs on natural gas which I'm not sure we even have a vehicle to tax it. Electric cars we do not have a vehicle to tax it. There are a variety of ways that we can improve our revenue sources for the state road systems at all three levels without issuing bonds at this time, without increasing the gas tax at this time and it would be something that will provide money each and every year, not one time as the issuance of bonds.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell. Senator Sieck, do you wish to close before we proceed?

SENATOR SIECK: Thank you, Mr. President. I think it is time to close but I do appreciate the discussion we have had this afternoon. I agree with Senator Schmit. I think he made some excellent statements with his closing here and also Senator Warner and I think it alerts us to the fact that the need is here and we've got to do something about it. And I don't think there is too much wrong with getting this \$4 million. We may allow a stretch of road to go in that could not have been done without it and I think this is something that we have to think about. Senator Beutler asked me the question of whether there was any bonding done. Yes, in 1969 we had a bonding let of \$20,000,000. Of that amount \$8 million is still left to pay with \$2 million of interest. So these are being paid out of the highway trust fund and I just wanted to clear this up. And I do feel that there is nothing wrong and I am a pretty conservative individual as I think most of you know. But I do like the comments that Senator Higgins gave. We're getting into, maybe, a depression and we need some work programs. Maybe this is the way to go. So when you vote, consider all