

SPEAKER NICHOL: The Vard Johnson amendment is adopted to the committee amendments. Do you have anything further?

CLERK: Nothing further to the committee amendments, Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Okay, back to the committee amendments. Senator Vard Johnson, did you wish to speak further on the committee amendments now as amended?

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I think, Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, that the committee amendments will probably be sort of a bellwether on this bill so I want to take just one more minute to explain the committee amendments to make certain that the Legislature is thoroughly cognizant as to what they do. Number one, the committee amendments, if adopted, take away the three new programs created by the bill, so they take away the earmarking. Number two, we do the pickup cigarette tax October 1, 1985. Number three, the bill itself sunsets...I was saying July 1st of '86, I was wrong. It is August 30th or September 1st, 1986. That is basically what it does. And, finally, of course, the money goes into the cash reserve fund. I think the committee amendments represent a very, very responsible solution to the possibility of the disappearance of the tax at the federal level without our knowing, in fact, that that is going to occur. I think the committee amendments are a far better solution than bracketing the bill. They are a far better solution than earmarking the money. They simply say, we want to make certain if the tax goes, we are there, we will pick up the tax, we will put the money in the cash reserve fund and we will reexamine the issue next legislative session. I would move the committee amendments.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Harry Chronister, did you wish to speak about the committee amendments?

SENATOR CHRONISTER: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I don't know what the bugaboo is about earmarking. This has been in existence for some time. If you recall, we have the Devaney Sport Center which was built by the earmarking of cigarette tax money. No one objects to that at this time. We also have the State Office Building Fund. We built the SOB down the street here with cigarette tax money. We have the Downtown Education Center and Office Rental Fund that they built a building in Omaha for the school. Believe me,