

SENATOR DECAMP: Okay, and how much would we have to cut the Roads Department budget or expenditures on highways, however you would want to call it, how much would we have to cut it in dollars so that we wouldn't have an increase in the gas tax? Approximately.

SENATOR WARNER: On current receipts it is about \$7.5 million per one cent, so about \$15 million approximately would be an appropriation level based upon current estimates. Now you understand that consumption...irregardless of what we appropriate, if consumption goes down or some of the other receipts go down, why that could affect the eventual rate necessary in order to fund the appropriation. But based on current receipts, it would be approximately \$15 million.

SENATOR DECAMP: Okay, well, it is obvious this is probably to the wrong bill, so I will withdraw that amendment, but just comment that I wonder if we shouldn't consider the possibility of either not having a significant increase in gas tax which to me is just one more tax and I think to every taxpayer in Nebraska is. Or in the alternative, if we could figure some creative ways and justifiable ways to raise that money and I know the shrinkage allowance is to me the most visible evidence, the most visible place where we are literally, and I think almost illegally, giving away tax money that is collected from the roads and so if we can do some creative things there, it may not be necessary to have a significant gas tax increase later. So I will be discussing this with you.

PRESIDENT: Is there further discussion on the DeCamp amendment? What are you...are you pursuing the amendment, Senator?

SENATOR DECAMP: (Response inaudible.)

PRESIDENT: You are withdrawing the amendment. Very good. Nothing else on the bill. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Senator DeCamp, I need to correct the figure I gave you. It would be about 1.4 cents increase in the gas tax to fund 722, not the 1.9. In part, because of the passage of the bill reducing the exemption on gasohol, that generates more revenue which in turn reduces the amount