

squeezing done on the general fund side. Now if you'll look at the material which the department, which our Research Office has prepared on the funding of the Department of Roads, which is where some of this squeeze will come, you will note, I am confident, that over the last five years there has been a very significant increase in monies raised by the gasoline tax. There has been a very significant increase in monies raised by the sales tax on motor vehicles and there has been a very significant increase in the monies raised by license fee increases. In fact you will note that the monies raised from the gasoline tax have increased 37 percent in the last five years. The monies raised by the sales tax on motor vehicles have increased 48 percent in the last five years and the monies raised from other sources have increased by almost 50 percent or 46.7 percent in the last five years. You will find that on...well, it's an unnumbered page, but you will find that in the handout. You will also note a second chart that I have passed out called, cash fund expenditures, I had this chart prepared by our fiscal analyst. You will note that in 1980-81 the cash fund expenditures for the Department of Roads was \$182 million and by 1984-85 the cash fund expenditures for the Department of Roads was \$283 million, and increase of \$100 million. When you compare those cash fund expenditures to cash fund expenditures for other state agencies, you simply don't find that kind of increase occurring. What has happened is that we have one side of our finance equation that's simply not balanced. It's not balanced in relationship to the other side. If you and I are to avoid increasing the taxes to the Nebraska taxpayer, and by the taxes I mean the sales taxes or the income taxes, we've got to be prepared to make this kind of a fund shift. As I indicated, it's an \$8.9 million fund shift. We make this fund shift, we go along with the Appropriation Committee recommendations on budget cuts, we settle for a lower reserve or we go along with some other budget cuts and we literally can avoid a tax increase. We genuinely can. But if we don't make this kind of a fund shift, we are locking ourselves into a tax increase. In my view the time has come for us to make some change so we don't have the tax increase. I ask your support of the proposal.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hefner, then Senator Remmers, then Senator Lamb. Senator Hefner.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I'm