

going to oppose this proposal. First, let's go back to analyze how we receive our highway trust funds. We receive money to put in our highway trust fund by registration fees on vehicles, fuel taxes that we collect that's used by vehicles and sales tax on vehicles. And let me tell you this, the need is great. I can see this especially out in greater Nebraska, in northeast Nebraska. We have many highways up there that need rebuilding. We have many highways up there that do not have any shoulders on at all and last year and early this spring we've had roads, or the shoulders of these roads have slid away because the moisture problem was so great. We had so much rain in some of these areas and they are dangerous to travel on. Also, the only way that we have to get commodities in and out of these small communities is by trucks. We've lost our railroads and so we need good roads into these small communities. We do not need to take the money out of our highway trust fund. We also must analyze that the highway patrol has other duties besides just patrolling our highways. First of all, they're deputy county sheriffs. If the county needs...if the county sheriff's department needs help, they call on the highway patrol so they need to do that. Also they have a drug division which has...doesn't concern roads at all and so I think we need to realize this. We need to analyze this and the policy for the past 16 years was to dedicate the sales tax on vehicles to the highway trust fund. Now Senator Vard Johnson, he's...he's very cagey. He says if we don't do this we're going to have to increase sales and income tax to fund our general fund budget. That may be true, but if we transfer \$8.5 million out of the general fund to the highway trust fund, then we're going to have to raise the gas taxes again or the registration fees or the sales tax on vehicles. I just feel it is wrong to transfer these funds out of the highway trust fund into the general fund. I would urge that you would defeat this amendment.

**SPEAKER NICHOL:** Senator Remmers, please.

**SENATOR REMMERS:** Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I also rise to oppose the amendment. We just got through voting for a sales tax on gasoline, an increase, and I could support that because it goes to building roads and that's what my constituents want. We look at the total tax levy that we have on the user tax on gasoline and automobiles and so forth, they're considerably higher than our sales and income taxes, and if we do need the extra money, I think it