

SENATOR WARNER: ...to turn around and reduce the effectiveness of that program makes little sense. We spend a lot of time talking about economic development. The most economic development we hear about is some tax gimmick. Yet almost everything I read that deals with what states ought to do or need to do for economic development there are two things that are consistently said in articles that are written reviewing what is important and those two things are education in the area of vocational education and research particularly, the second one is roads. If you do not have an adequate transportation, a roads system, you cannot expect economic development and I would hope that the importance of a good program would be recognized as it has historically been. I also point out that one of the problems, it isn't a problem, one of the things you need to understand from the Roads Department's budget, growth in cash funds includes federal funds and there have been some increase in federal funds, but they are restricted funds. The increase recently in the federal funds was almost totally restricted to bridges and the interstate, primarily the interstate. It was just a few funds of the additional money that was available for either the state or the county system, the secondary system. 95 percent of Nebraska's roads of the state system are noninterstate and that 95 percent had virtually no benefit from those increased federal funds. We're totally dependent upon state to match to, to carry, plus those additional federal funds that are historically been available for that important segment of our system. I would urge the body to not adopt the amendment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Sieck, then Senator Vard Johnson, then Senator Scofield, then Senator DeCamp. Senator Sieck.

SENATOR SIECK: Mr. President, members of the body, I also oppose this amendment. The highway patrol works more than just on highways. There is a lot of other things they do and I don't feel that we should use this trust money to finance something that should be the obligation of all of the people of the State of Nebraska. I also feel that, as Senator Warner so well pointed out, that it will actually increase the gas tax and why should the gas user which he is now placed with one of the highest in the nation, which we voted on not too long ago, because we see the need of our highways and streets and our bridges within the State of