

shift as a way to meet a problem that we have right now, but I think it's a rather shortsighted way to go about it and I would urge you to reject the amendment. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator DeCamp, please.

SENATOR DECAMP: I'll pass.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Wesely, then Senator Warner, then Senator Vickers. Senator Wesely first, yes.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, I thought maybe Senator Johnson was getting a little lonely so I thought I'd join him up here and stand up on this resolution in support of it. I know why he is so lonely. This isn't an easy issue. It's been brought up many times before, even a Governor tried to do this. Both Governors that I've served with, Governor Thone and Governor Kerrey proposed the same thing and even the Governors in both cases weren't able to see the change occur. So I am sure lonely Senator Johnson and myself and some others who have talked about trying to do this aren't going to probably be successful today, but nevertheless, the effort has to be made. You know in talking about this budget and listening to some of the debate, it reminds me a bit of the debate at the federal level when they talk about the defense budget and the roads budget in essence is our state defense budget. It's one that is held in high esteem. Those people that get the contracts for the work are very much in support of it. They deal with a lot of money and so it means a great deal to them. There are those interest groups that benefit directly in addition to the contractors and there is a strong support base for this program. And so just as discussion at the federal level about cuts in the defense budget aren't very successful, maybe we should think in terms of that when we talk about the roads budget because it's probably the same sort of situation, only at the state level. There is a strong support base for this program. It's not a popular thing with those people to stand up here and say a change is needed and ought to occur, but nevertheless, some of us have to do that and I hope many of you will have that courage to vote for the change. Now there are legitimate reasons. I don't want to say that it's political pressure only that causes people to vote against this. We all know the roads are important. We know that there is a need for this road work and nobody is going to deny that, so there are definite