

legitimate needs and reasons to oppose any change. I don't want to argue that point. I'm just trying to emphasize that this is not an easy thing to do and, Senator Johnson, I commend you for trying to make the effort. Clearly the increase in the roads budget has been dramatic as other budgets have held the line or had very small increases. We have seen a dramatic roads increase. This comes at a time that we have very tight budgets and we have to look at all areas of the budget in which to make change. It seems to me that the roads budget, large as it is and with the increases that they have enjoyed, ought to be a likely place to look at for some adjustment for some change. In the total picture of the roads budget this is not the end of the world, an \$8 million plus transfer. It is something that they can sustain and it may set back a few projects. It may leave a few chuckholes unfilled for another year, but they will eventually get the job done and it will happen. I think we have to consider for instance the efficiency question on our roads efforts. I watched as over the last couple of years we took little chunks out of the interstate between Lincoln and out west toward Kearney and they worked very diligently and I watched them and I thought, boy, that's really great, we're fixing our interstate. Now they have gone back in and they have completely ripped out what they took the chunks out of, hopefully to sustain the life of that road and are now totally rebuilding the road. But you've got to wonder where our money is going to when we're doing that, when we're taking out first and costing a lot of money and trying to save the road and then decide later to just tear up the whole road and put in a new one. What was the point of trying to extend the life a year or two at that cost when we were obviously going to have to tear it out eventually anyway and I have tried for several years now, four or five, to try and get the Roads Department to look at a new way to use a rubber compound in the asphalt mix and in the road mix. There has been some testing done that would show that using some crumb rubber in the asphalt mix in the road construction could extend the life of a road dramatically at a very slight increase in cost, maybe doubling the life of the road at a few percentage increase in the cost of that road. This is because the rubber in the compound will take the contractions of the cold and the hot and the humid and the dry...

SPEAKER NICHOL: One minute.