

fees, exempt their fees where you are required by federal law. But in Nebraska here we are paying those fees. So I think it has to be looked at as to what it costs. Basically, if we are really that short of money then let's be up front and raise taxes rather than hit a select few because the insurance companies buy the biggest share of these and they will just charge it back to the company or to the person that pays it. So the consumer is going to be paying in the end anyhow. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Schmit, please, then Senator Nelson.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to defend the actions of the committee in indefinitely postponing the bill, LB 83. The bill was postponed by a vote of seven ayes and no nays. The introducer of the bill, Senator Lynch, voted to indefinitely postpone the bill. In all fairness and honesty when the Director of Motor Vehicles testified before the committee she stated very flatly that it was a revenue-raising measure. I believe and the committee members agreed with me unanimously that we do not generally try to finance government by fees. The fees are supposed to cover the cost of the service. The taxpayer should get some thing for his general fund money. It so often happens that we find on this floor, each and every time that we provide for some kind of service to be produced by an agency, the next thing we know there is an A bill trotting across the board. It grieves me tremendously, and it's not just state government, we see it in counties, we see it in NRDs, we see it in all the rest of them. We create the agency. The agency has a responsibility, they get general fund money. What in the name of common sense do we have to come always in and say we are going to provide additional revenue for the agency? If you need another \$400,000 to run the blooming agency, put it up there with general fund money. But the fee itself should just cover the cost of the service. I don't know how many employees it takes. We've never...you know you can cover that up in a multitude of ways. The point I want to make is I don't believe it is an up front way to finance state government. You hide the kind of cost, and I know that the Appropriations Committee generally does not favor, I do not believe, the idea of funding government by the fee method. I know the Revenue Committee, for many years when it was chaired by Senator Carsten, did not operate that way. We