

not the argument here. That has not been the argument that anyone has made. Therefore, I say, cap the increase or cap the monies going into the Highway Trust Fund from the sales tax on motor vehicles at 3 1/2 percent. Do not permit this increase from 3 1/2 percent to 4 percent to automatically ship about \$6 million into the Highway Trust Fund. That is what it does.

SENATOR CARSTEN: The Chair is going to go down the list now and we have a number here, if they want to visit or talk on the Vard Johnson amendment, Senator Landis, do you want to address the Johnson amendment? Senator Smith? Senator Higgins, do you want to address the Vard Johnson amendment? Senator Hefner, do you want to address...Senator Hefner, on the Vard Johnson amendment.

SENATOR HEFNER: Mr. President and members of the body, I rise to oppose the Johnson amendment. I think what we need to do is if we raise the sales tax from 3 1/2 to 4 percent, we should allow that 1/2 percent to go into the Highway Trust Fund. We need money just as bad in our Highway Trust Fund as we need it in the General Fund. Now I don't know about Senator Vard Johnson, the roads in Omaha are pretty good, but when you get a long ways from Lincoln, the roads are not so good and I would just like to refer you to northeast Nebraska. We need a lot of road rebuilding. We need a lot of new bridges. We need better county roads. We need better city streets, and if we raise the sales tax a half a percent, we need that half a percent sales tax on motor vehicles to go into the Highway Trust Fund. I can see no reason why we would want to split that now and make it more complicated. I would say that we would want to defeat the Vard Johnson amendment and allow that amount of money to flow into the Highway Trust Fund.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Thank you, Senator Hefner. We are back on the list again, Senator Landis, on the Vard Johnson amendment, please.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Johnson amendment. Without it, LB 539 is a windfall for political subdivisions as far as I can tell. I confess that this area is difficult to follow and understand which fund means which thing but I believe it is correct that in the event we put in another, what, \$5.7 million, which is what would be raised in essence in a 12 month period by this kind of sales tax on motor vehicles, if we raise \$5.7 million, not to help on General Fund problems, not to settle the budget crises that supposedly we are going to pass this money for, that \$5.7 million will be a