

ask the state employees all to sacrifice, I think it makes good sense to ask our Department of Roads, and I know that Senator Warner has said that he would, if we don't want to tax the people to that extent, that he would take a look at a reduction for the Department of Roads budget but he does not want to see those kind of funds transferred to other uses. But I do believe that there are some justifications for Senator Vard Johnson's amendment. I think it is a reasonable one. It is not a very big nick really. I don't think you are going to hardly notice it but I think that most of all it would add a little bit of credibility to the fact that the people who usually use the roads, they use the system, have some obligation to make some contribution to the General Fund. Certainly the state employees are required to make a contribution by sacrificing. Certainly the university is required to make a sacrifice. Certainly the Department of Roads can do so. I know there are those who will say, well, if we don't do it now, it is going to cost us more later. I have stood on this floor and passed a bill that allowed the issuance of highway bonds. I thought it was good. I think we should have issued more of them back in those early '70s when the costs of construction were low. But I think we ought to think very seriously about this possibility of just adding an additional amount of money to the Department of Roads because I think, although they may use it well, I think it is realistic, it is honest, and it is fair to put some of that money in the General Fund. Again I would dare say that most of you do not know that today I believe the vast majority, the super vast majority of all Department of Roads funds are cash funds and they are virtually immune from budget cuts, quite the contrast with other agencies of government. Senator Warner has pointed out...

SENATOR CARSTEN: One minute.

SENATOR SCHMIT: ...that the Division of Social Services is not immune but they are protected from many of the cuts, other areas are protected, and so then when you have to cut expenditures, it makes it more burdensome upon those agencies, such as the university, those entities, which do not have that kind of protection and then it becomes more apparent to us in an effort to be fair, we must try to restore some of those funds and we get back to the old situation of raising the sales tax or raising the income tax or adding a tax on services, rather than to take the other approach which is one of trying to cut the budget. Now I support the Vard Johnson amendment