

SENATOR LAMB: Mr. President and members, I rise to oppose this bill primarily for the reasons that Senator Haberman has outlined. As I see it, a vote for this bill is a vote for an increase in gasoline taxes, pure and simple, since we have this variable gasoline tax system that we have now, although I don't think that is the best system, it is the system we have. So unless we reduce the authorization of money that the highway department can collect, this is not merely a shift in funds. This is also a vote for an increase in the gasoline tax. So if that is what you want to do, if you want to in effect fund the General Fund by an increase in the gasoline tax, you vote for this bill. Otherwise, if you want to cut spending more or if you want to find another source of revenue, it would be more appropriate to vote against this bill because this is much more than just a transfer fund. It is also a vote for an increase in the gasoline tax which we won't vote but it will be an increase in that tax if you vote for this bill. So I urge the body to vote against this bill and find other ways to balance the budget.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Landis.

SENATOR LANDIS: (No response.)

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Carsten.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I would like to ask Senator Johnson a question if I may. Senator Johnson, ordinarily as I understand our procedure, we always get a committee statement in our bill book and I do not find one in my bill book and I am wondering if there is one and if so, why we don't have it.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I guess it was filed at the same time the bill was filed and it probably just hasn't been photocopied and put in the bill books yet, but, yes, there is a committee statement. Isn't that right, Mr. Clerk?

SENATOR CARSTEN: I would like to see that committee statement and see who testified for and against and the committee comments before I vote on this bill, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: I think the Page will photocopy it and