

have it available.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Morehead.

SENATOR MOREHEAD: Mr. President and colleagues, I rise to oppose this bill also. I think that there are lots of things that we need to talk about and think about and I realize that the highway department sits out there with budgets that we are all envious of because of the dollar figure. We feel that we don't have control a little bit like our frustration with the University budget, but I believe that there are some fallacies involved in this proposed shift that we need to look at. As has been mentioned by other people, there is possibly, very conceivably and I believe a hidden tax which will be imposed because one of the major functions of our cities and our counties which we tried to help them with last year was an increase in their funds for roads and highways. Now with this function and an additional cut, I think we are attempting in a way to put a Band-Aid on a severed artery and I don't think that is going to work. There is false economy in delaying roads projects. And I will tell you that there is not anything that means any more to my district than a four-lane highway between Beatrice and Lincoln. I also know that that roadway, if developed correctly, would prevent accidents and injuries. It would additionally help the economics of both communities between Lincoln and Beatrice. Now we talk about farmed market economy and that is important, but I tell you that with approximately eight million people between Omaha and Lincoln and seven million outstate, there are a lot of dollars spent in Lincoln and Omaha. Those dollars are spent by people driving our roads to come in here to spend those dollars. And I think that if we start cutting here, minimal as it seems, we are delaying something that could be disastrous. I think that we are making a judgment based primarily on what we see as a budget that we don't have direct control over. It is easy to look at that highway department employee in the summertime leaning on his shovel. We all love to quote that, don't we? But I think we need to, in fact, look at the deeper issue on this budget. False economy, as I have said, is not prudent at this time and in our effort to find dollars this is not the place. Thank you.

SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Landis.