

time for a certain group, in other words the roads, highway construction, to sacrifice. I would submit to you and attempt to prove in the next three or four minutes that it is a tax increase and sacrifice is not involved. Let me explain the way our highway construction works. We approve a construction budget, certain amount for roads. The funds for those roads come from gasoline tax and the other things, the thing we are dealing with now. We have a system we put into effect a few years ago, the variable gas tax controlled by the Board of Equalization. If you rob money, take money out of the Highway Trust Fund without actually cutting the quantity of road construction which this bill does not do, then automatically by law the Board of Equalization will have to increase gasoline taxes to make up for it. How do our gasoline taxes compare with the rest of the United States? We rank either the highest, or I think we are second highest now. Maybe if we pass this bill, we can move back to number one with the highest gasoline taxes in the United States. This is a tax increase in your gasoline taxes. Without cutting your road construction, it is definitely that. Therefore, it is "not a sacrifice" because the same roads budget has already been approved. That is law. Those things are going to be built unless you would amend the bill to actually eliminate construction. You are not doing that. This is tax gimmickry, not tax cutting. You are simply increasing your gasoline taxes. Now, let me tell you the last famous person who did this identical thing. His name was Lyndon Baines Johnson and under the banner, under the banner of we can have guns and butter when fighting the Vietnam War, he established the principle of robbing, borrowing from the Social Security funds and the national highway trust funds. That is what financed the Vietnam War. But did it come home to roost? Well, you know what we went through on Social Security. You know what we went through now at the national level on our Highway Trust Funds. You are not solving a problem through tax gimmickry and that is what this is and that is what this entire program is. It is not anything other than tax gimmickry. For example, the abstract fees, you add two dollars on everybody's automobile insurance, that is effectively what it does, and then say that that somehow is cutting spending. It is just a hidden tax. Here is the same thing. You rob from one fund and then have it automatically increased by the Board of Equalization on your gasoline taxes. That is not cutting spending. That is tax gimmickry and it doesn't deal with the issue. But now we are back to the bottom line