

which is, when you look at the chart that was passed out, to continece in a five-year time period a 35 percent increase in the state's share of cash funds. If I put the federal fund increase in there, it would be close to a 50 percent increase. In five years, an item that we never discuss has a 35 percent increase whereas the general fund side that we have discussed ad nauseum has a 15 percent increase. The only way to get priorities discussed is to begin the process of de-earmarking, is to begin the process of de-earmarking and then roads fits into that balance scale just as welfare does, just as the University does, just as aid to local subdivisions does. That is the only way to get the discussion of the priorities. In the absence of that, this item will never be factored. It will never be factored with the other items, never, and it will go on and on and on and every now and then we will be shocked by some bid-rigging process or we will be shocked by some roads that were poorly constructed or we'll be shocked by this or that, but it will go on and on and on because it's an off budget item, because it is an issue that we don't discuss. And all Governor Kerrey has suggested, he said, let's just return it to the historic place, the historic place being at a 2.5 percent dedicated tax from the sales tax on motor vehicles. Let the balance though go to the General Fund operation. Let that happen. And you know the world won't tremble under our feet if that was to occur. In fact, the Department of Roads still will have a net increase this year. Cities will have a mighty net increase this year. Counties will have a mighty net increase year. The University will have a decrease this year. I guarantee that. The Commission on the Status of Women has a very significant decrease this year. The Indian Commission has a very significant decrease this year. Aid to local subdivisions, what will happen to the mentally retarded this year? What is going to happen to the mentally retarded who do need to be maintained with the same degree of solicitude as the chuckholes need to be maintained?

SENATOR BEUTLER: Thirty seconds, sir.

SENATOR V. JOHNSON: What is to happen to the children that we have to care for, that we have to look out for? Are we to allow their maintenance to go down while we allow the concrete to go on? That's the question. The question is simply restoring the earmarking to its historic place, not taking it away, restoring it to its historic place. I ask