

March 20, 1992

LB 1272

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Now, what part...wait a minute, how was I not correct?

PRESIDENT MOUL: One minute.

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Well, you were insinuating that 1059 was the sole purpose of those delays.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: No, no, I said there were delays that had nothing to do with 1059, that is the way I phrased it. Weren't there delays in projects that had nothing to do with 1059 or that 1 cent?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Yes.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Okay, I see what you mean when you said you had your ears open substantially. Thank you, Senator Kristensen. Members of the Legislature, here is what we are dealing with. It is difficult for those who want to keep this money going to the Highway Trust Fund to deal forthrightly with this issue. There was, in fact, a windfall because money went to the Highway Trust Fund that they had no reasonable expectation of getting. There was no bill designed for that purpose. There was no amendment added to a bill for that purpose. It just happened that with the system being in place as it was, and 1059 having been drafted in the way that it was, resulted in a windfall to the Highway Trust Fund that the drafters of the bill did not consciously intend to give, and that is why there were efforts to take that money and put it into education. Any increase in the taxes that resulted...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: ...from that bill should have gone to education.

PRESIDENT MOUL: Thank you, Senator Chambers. Senator Warner.

SENATOR WARNER: Madam President, members of the Legislature, I, too, agree with those who have indicated that Senator Lamb's amendment is indicative of the kind of thing that could happen in the future. But I also want to comment that, as Senator Moore pointed out, it is the level of appropriation that the Legislature makes as far as the Department of Roads is concerned