

streets, and roads, and highways, the one thing that was consistently brought up through public hearings across the state, and there was forty some, was the desirability of having some stability that people could know and expect that a road that was on the one or five-year program, in fact, would be accomplished approximately in that time frame. And the only way that can be accomplished then is stability, that's the reason for the variable. Again, I will emphasize that the amount that you reduce from this Highway Trust Fund, it affects the state, it's been pointed out, obviously, only results in one of two things, either you reduce the appropriation, meaning that some construction will not be done,...

PRESIDENT MOUL: Time.

SENATOR WARNER: I'll push my light.

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

SENATOR LYNCH: Madam President, members, I'm playing the devil's advocate based on the amendment offered by Senator Lamb. It's rather interesting that we should have a strong sense that whenever we collect a tax, say from an automobile or truck that's been purchased, it should go back into the highways. Farm machinery, Senator Warner tells me if it's not licensed, of course, it does not come back to highways. Anything that's licensed does. But carried to its ultimate, I would assume that almost anything that we pay a sales tax on could be associated with highways. You go to the store and buy a suit of clothes and put it on, you probably get in your car and drive back home to either wearing the suit of clothes or put it on. So, maybe we should designate all the sales tax from clothes be put into highways. You have an appliance, it has to be put on a truck and brought home, and I assume you could suggest it should be diverted to highways, furniture, cameras, any kind of store bought goods, auto parts. We don't have a sales tax on...if you purchase a house or food, I guess, yet. But I'm not sure if, in fact, we are really sincere about our concern with earmarking money for a particular purpose. I remember a few years ago when we increased a tax on cigarettes, and the purpose of that was supposed to be for cancer research. I remember also, if I remember correctly, there was a special tax on alcoholic beverages, and the purpose of the money was supposed to be to go towards developing rehabilitation for alcoholism and drug abuse. In neither one of those cases was the money ever put into those