

Capitol News -

Proposal Introduced for Revision Of Method of Distributing Gas Tax

By Melvin Paul
Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN—A controversial area would be opened up by a bill introduced in the Legislature regarding gasoline tax funds. Sens. Jack Romans of Ord, Matt Wylie of Elgin and George Fleming of Sidney propose legislation to revise the manner of distributing rural mail route gasoline tax money. They want to base the distribution formula on miles of rural mail routes in a county instead of population.

Under the present formula, administrative expenses and refunds are deducted first from revenue received from the state's seven cents a gallon tax on gasoline. Fifteen per cent of the remainder goes to counties for traveling or otherwise improving rural mail routes.

In past sessions lawmakers have been hesitant to get into the section of law in which the mail route provision is found. The proposal could be expected to produce considerable activity this session.

Meanwhile, there will be another try to make sure that no highway user revenue is diverted to non-highway uses. Sen. Lewis Webb of Ogallala proposed a bill calling for a Constitutional amendment and a vote at the polls on the matter. No diversion of gasoline tax and license fee

money has occurred in recent years.

A similar bill survived a committee test but was killed on the legislative floor in the 1959 session.

There now is no provision of the state Constitution that would prohibit diverting highway user funds to some other area of government.

Rural Influence

Nebraska's Legislature has a heavy rural influence again this session. Seventeen of the senators are farmers or ranchers and others have agriculture interests.

There are only four attorneys—a relatively low figure compared with past sessions—and four bankers.

For those who would like to know the average age of a lawmaker this session, it's 55. Sens. Frank Nelson of O'Neill and M.M. Forrester of Anselmo, 77 years old each, are the oldest sons and Sen. Marvin E. Stromer of Lincoln, at 27, is the youngest.

The most numerous age bracket is between 40 and 50 years old. There are 14 senators in this group and also 14 in the 40-49 year category. Seventeen of the 43 senators are under 50 years old and 26 past the mid-century mark. Seven of the lawmakers are 70 years old or more.

There are 15 new members of the Legislature and most of them say they plan to sit quietly for a while and see how the one-house body operates before plunging into anything fancy. Most, however, have been active in introduction of legislation. Floor debate in the first four weeks of the session was slow and sporadic.

Now that the rush of new bills by individual senators is over, committee hearings will get going in earnest, followed by plenty of arguments on the floor.

State Fair

It's a long time until the next state fair, but there already is activity in this area. State Fair Board Secretary Edwin Schultz

said a change in length of the annual exposition, approved by the fair board, would save about \$10,000 in payrolls and gate charges.

The board decided to open the 1961 fair on Saturday, September 2 and continue Thursday midnight. Theme of the 1961 event will be the Civil War Centennial. Schultz said the fair board, despite the tightest financial year in some time, hopes to launch a second 10-year expansion plan including new buildings, one of which would be a Future Farmers of America structure, expected to cost between \$60,000 and \$70,000.

However, the secretary added, the developments will hinge upon future receipts to the board.

Teachers Colleges

Mrs. Haven Smith of Chappell has resigned from the State Normal Board, which governs the four teachers colleges at Wayne, Chadron, Peru and Kearney.

Mrs. Smith, a long-time board member, said a heavy load of speaking engagements would prevent her from giving adequate time to the board. The board named Carl Spelts of Kearney as president succeeding Dr. F. B. Decker, commissioner of education.

It also accepted the retirement July 1 of Dr. Herbert Cushing, president of Kearney. Presidents of all four colleges, meanwhile, expressed doubt as to whether they will be able to hold faculty members under the budget proposed for the colleges by Gov. Frank Morrison. Morrison recommended a \$6.1 million allocation for the schools, up 20 per cent from the \$5.1 million in tax dollars apportioned to the colleges for the 1959-61 period which ends this July.

Cushing said that if the schools fail to get the 50 per cent boost asked "the stronger schools in this region will raid our faculty."

Highway Commission

J. R. McBride of Minden has been re-elected chairman of the Advisory State Highway Commission. Vice Chairman is Merle Kingsbury of Ponca.

The commission, at its regular meeting, also heard Sen. Cecil Craft of North Platte state he feels the state should concentrate more on its secondary road system.

The highway department told the commission that about 40 per cent of the state's primary and secondary matching money is going to secondary roads compared to about 33 per cent in other states where money is channeled through the counties.

by the Emmet Hay Co., at Emmet.

Ruth Barnes and Amy Slaymaker of Atkinson were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Seger.

Golden Rod Club

Gollenrod Garden club met at the home of Mrs. Gaines Rzeszotarski Thursday with Mrs. L. Beckwith and Mrs. Gaines Rzeszotarski as hostesses.

Morris Pongratz and Art Wells of Omaha are spending from Friday to Thursday with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Pongratz and family and Mr. and Mrs. Jess Wells of Emmet. They will return to college Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Skopec of Emmet were Thursday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Richard and family of Emmet.

Bernelda Pongratz entered St. Anthony's hospital Saturday afternoon. She is the daughter of

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Pongratz.

Mrs. Elmer Schaaf and family and Ruth Barnes were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Seger.

Emily Dusatko was a Thursday night guest of Carmen Benze of O'Neill.

Mrs. Joe Gokie was a Wednesday afternoon guest of Mrs. John Bahl.

Mrs. Joe Ramold jr., and Helen Boyle were hostesses to a party Friday evening.

Curtis Bahl celebrated his birthday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Bahl and family Tuesday. Mrs. Agnes Heeb of O'Neill and Sharon Schmidt were also guests.

Mrs. Ray Conway visited Friday afternoon with Mrs. John Bahl.

Mr. and Mrs. George Skopec of Emmet were Thursday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Al Havranek.

Pinocle club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Beckwith Sunday evening.

Mrs. Georgia McGinnis of Emmet has spent a few days visiting Mr. and Mrs. John Conard of Emmet.

Mrs. Rose Schaaf of Atkinson is spending a few days visiting Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winkler of Emmet.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Roger were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Ruggless Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Tunender and family, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sicheneder and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Deermmer and Karla, all of Atkinson were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deermmer and family of Atkinson in honor of Marion Deermmer's 21st birthday Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Havranek were Friday night guests of Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Havranek and family of O'Neill.

Don, Gene and Dolores Pettinger visited Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pongratz Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Havranek were

Thursday guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Marshall of Verdigre.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pongratz visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Pongratz and Mrs. Agnes Heeb at O'Neill Monday afternoon.

Mrs. Elmer Schaaf and Mrs. Al Kloppenberg attended a district 4-H leaders' meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Carr of Amelia and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Soukup of O'Neill were Saturday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Marcellus and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deermmer were surprised on their 24th wedding anniversary Sunday evening. Present were Larry, Ronnie and Linda Deermmer, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Schaaf, Annette, Johnny, Joe, Denny, Vernon, Jimmy, Roy and Mickie, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Deermmer and Karla, Mrs. Joe Ramold and Jack, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Timmerman, Mary, Ray-

dene, Albert, Raymond, Barbara, Janet, Cathy, Billy and Rita, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Tunender, Francis, Dolores, Edgar, Bob and Gene, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sicheneder and Mr. and Mrs. John Wonderebeck, all of Atkinson and Mr. and Mrs. George Ramold, Kenny, Carol, Gary, Terry and Guy, all of Inman.

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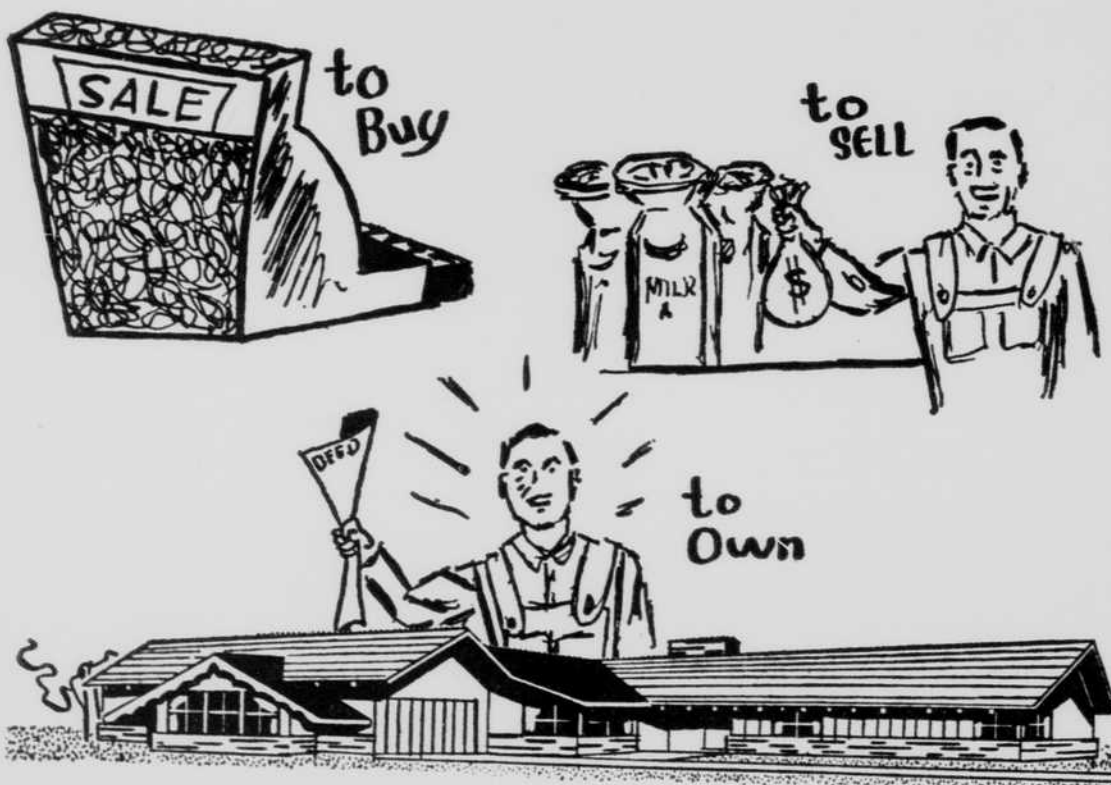
Please Make Appointments

Emmet And Community

Dolores Tunender

Mrs. Joe Ramold sr., and sons were Monday night visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Laible and John at Atkinson. Mrs. Ramold and Mrs. Laible are sisters. Edgar Tunender had his arm broken above the wrist when the tractor engine backfired as he was cranking it. He is employed

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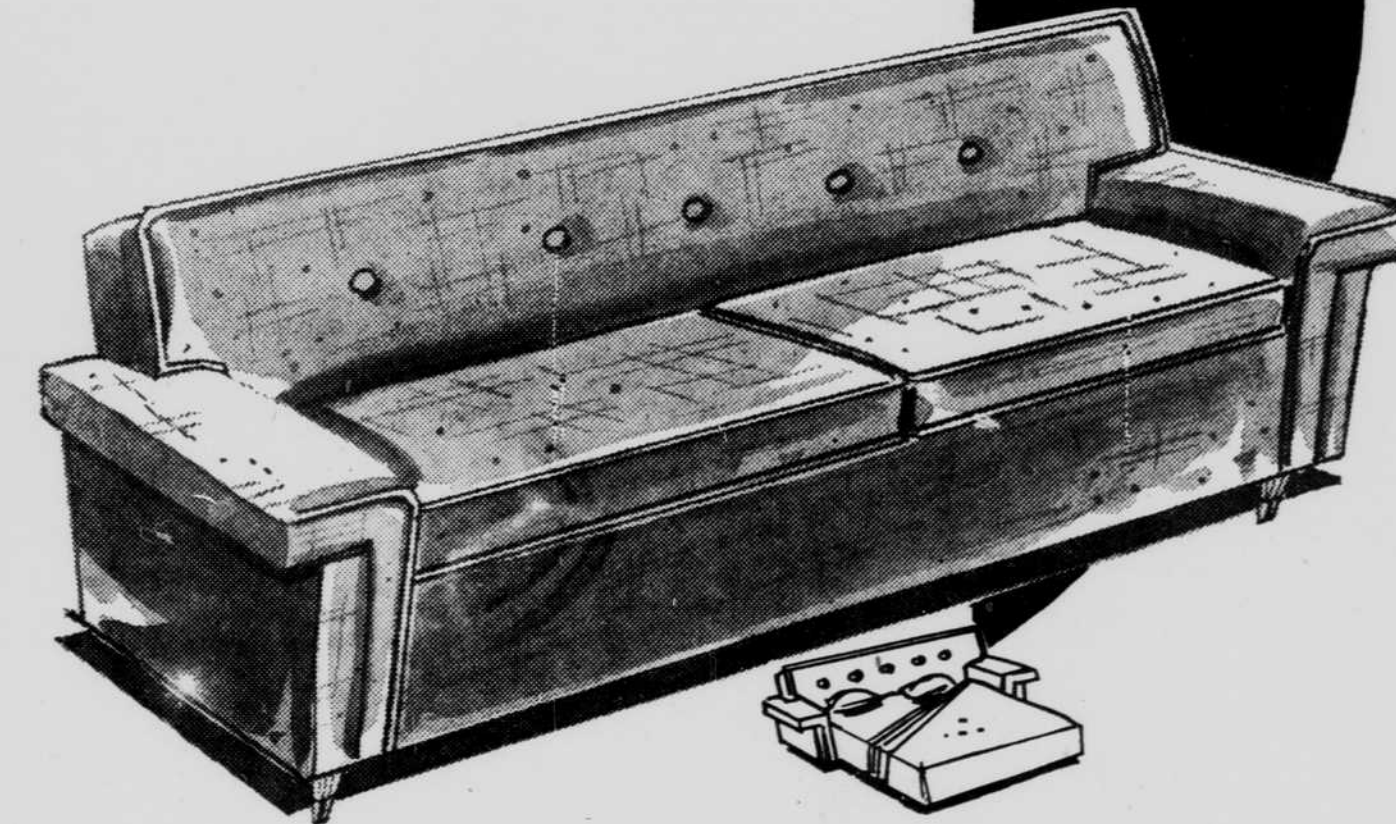
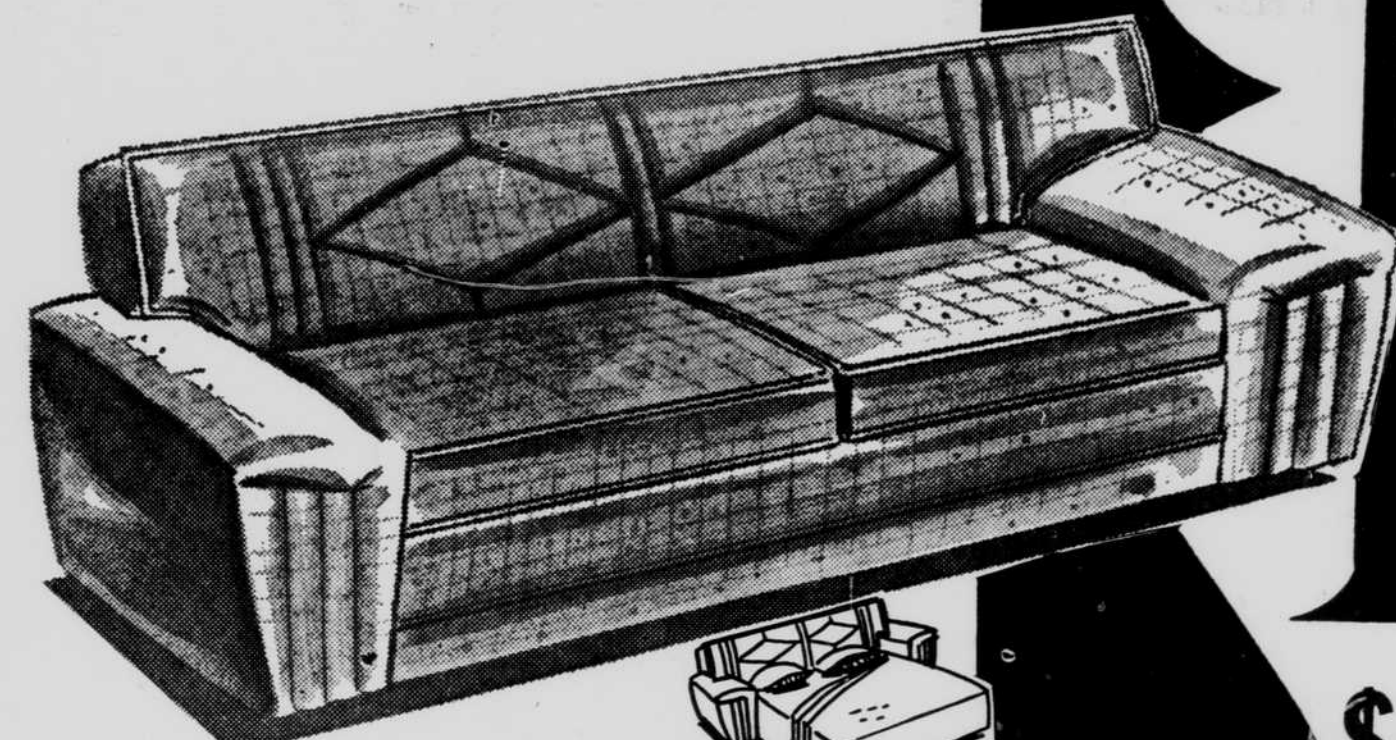
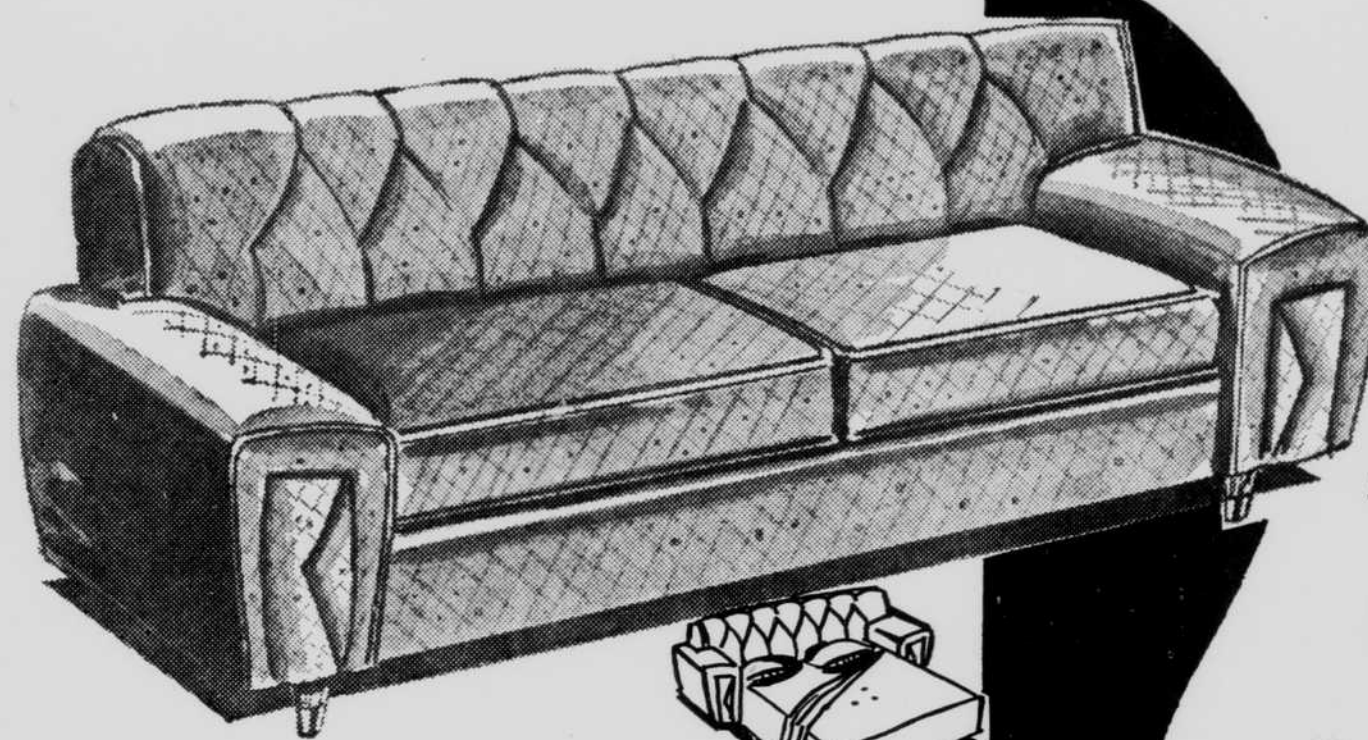


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