

May 15, 1975

I don't know about the rest of you but I don't want to be judged according to the way they judge Senator Hruska and Senator Curtis. Both of those men are old and they are tired. They have been there a long, long time. Well, when you have been doing something a long time, fatigue sets in but I am not fatigued yet and I think that the members of this Legislature can understand that there is a difference between treatment of a huge state that have political power used in terms of population and states like Nebraska. I say again to you, though, I am not opposed to everything that the federal government requires states to do but whenever I see them imposing a restriction that I think is unfair, then I have to oppose it. I don't ride a motorcycle. I am opposed to motorcycles, period, being utilized but because of my personal opposition to the motorcycle, it is a fact of life but because I am opposed to the motorcycle doesn't mean that I will totally disregard the rights of people who are involved and I am certainly not going to see that the motorcycle helmet manufacturers get a windfall with the help and complicity of this state. I think the amendment ought to be adopted. If the federal government believes in it, let the federal government show the way. If it can't eat what it puts on the plate for us to eat, we should not eat it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President, members of the body, I rise to oppose Senator Chambers' motion, and as one other side, I would say if Senator Chambers wants to put this to the vote of the people along with his school board by district, I would be willing to do that. But all evidence of studies, nationally, and even in Australia, without a doubt show that with effective helmet laws the reduction in fatalities in motorcyclists are dramatically reduced. Even the Highway Patrol of California, their study shows this and yet California doesn't have the law but there again I believe it is due to the inaction of their legislators. When the Highway Patrol of California endorses it, then I believe it is high time, that the evidence is obvious, that there is a need for a helmet law and I am talking strictly from the safety standpoint and, once again, I would urge you not to adopt Senator Chambers motion.

PRESIDENT: Senator Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: I would like to commend my good friend, Senator Chambers, for putting the correct amendment up there. That's better than the kill motion because it really says that the people in the Congress, if they really want this, let them tell us and we will certainly help them out. Now somebody referred and said it was the Congress that did this. They passed this Highway Safety act in 1966 and the bureaucrats have to keep doing something up there to have some kind of standard and some kind of operation so they have to, each year, come up with a new standard. I just got the billboard one here in front of me about somebody talking about a church sign that is three blocks from somewhere and you can't put it up and this is just going to keep coming and we might as well quit and Senator Chambers has said that. If John Y. McCollister and Charlie Thone and Mrs. Smith and Carl Curtis and Roman Hruska want this and this is their platform, let them tell us that. Let them