

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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LB 176

SENATOR HILGERT: Thank you, Mr. President, members. I rise in support of the committee amendments. I support them. I do think it improves the bill. I want to thank Senator Matzke for his very generous comments. I appreciate them, Senator. And regarding the speed, I'd like to read an article that was in the Omaha World-Herald, just a section of it. After 50 miles an hour, falling off a jet ski is like falling onto concrete, said Rick Baker, an Omaha Corps (phonetic) Chairman of the United States Power Squadron, a volunteer group, and while some personal watercraft can reach speeds of 85 miles an hour, Nebraska law allows 14-year-olds to operate them. You wouldn't think of turning over the Suburban keys to your kids, but a 135 horsepower engine on a jet ski that will do 80 miles an hour, they will just turn it over to the kids because they see it as a toy. The safety board study found that over 80 percent...84 percent of users reported receiving no instruction. Again, I rise in support of the committee amendments. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Thank you, Senator Hilgert. (Visitors introduced.) Senator Smith, on the committee amendments to LB 176.

SENATOR SMITH: Thank you, Mr. President. I was wondering if Senator Hilgert would agree to some questions.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Hilgert, would you yield?

SENATOR HILGERT: Sure. Yes.

SENATOR SMITH: In your opening you described an accident that occurred involving a boat as well with an open prop, perhaps being the major cause of the damage, is that correct?

SENATOR HILGERT: Yes, but the boat was a jet ski. This is...I read from a letter and she did refer to her own jet ski and the other person did have another jet ski and she called it a boat, but you're correct...you're correct, but I did want to quote her verbatim. I'm sorry I misled you, Senator.

SENATOR SMITH: Okay. In the bill then, and I realize that the committee amendments, and I do support the committee amendments