

May 1, 1973

(Begin Belt #15)

But it comes from a member of our body, maybe from several members who want it. They are obviously not experts on highway safety and I believe that it should be left up to the Highway Patrol to decide something like this. The head of the patrol can decide if those cars should be to the extent possible visible if he wants to but if in his best judgment he considers it better safety to once in a while have one hidden then I think that is fine. I personally when I come to an overpass and I'll have to say practically all the time I drive within the speed limits, at least I've never been caught going over the speed limit but that's basically because I generally don't. But I'll have to admit that when I come to an overpass behind which there might be a patrol car if I'm going 74 I'll slow down to 70 so there's absolutely no question about it, but if I don't have to, if the public doesn't have to worry about that, then when they come to an overpass and they don't see a patrol car they can go 100 miles an hour with absolute impunity so it seems to me that the amendment is highly questionable.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Duis, then Senator Kremer, Kime and Chambers.

SENATOR DUIS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, my purpose in an amendment such as this is to create highway safety. I believe this is an area where the Safety Council and the patrol and them might have overlooked something. The visibility of enforcement officer or an enforcement regulation would cause the slowing down and the remaining within the limits of the law and thereby provide safety. That's my thought. Now in answer to Senator Syas and the aerial observation, I drive approximately 1,000 miles a week the year around whether I'm here or not and I'm on all kinds of highways in quite a number of states. Those states that have aerial observation generally have signs posted on the road which state the fact that aerial observation is underway and on the paving if you'll notice, George, as you drive along will be marks so that they have measured miles and then there will be a picture of an aircraft painted on the paving and this immediately slows you down if you're speeding, I'm sure. But it keeps you within those bounds because you know that there is aerial observation and I think aerial observation is good. As a matter of fact, I worked around a flying service when it was first instituted and it was very effective mainly for truckers more than it was for the automobile, because I'll tell you you very rarely hear of a bus being picked up for speeding but get on one and watch the speedometer when you're sitting there and you'll know that he can sure hit her up there but they seem to have an immunity that other people don't have. But nevertheless I still think the observation of a law enforcement officer is a deterrent to crime and I would hope that we could also have that as a help to safety and that's what I'm interested in, is safety.

SPEAKER: There's an amendment on the desk, will the Clerk please read the amendment.

CLERK: Reads.

SPEAKER: Chair recognizes Senator Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: That's a legitimate proposal, members of the Legislature and Mr. Chairman. We have a large number of State cars and certainly with the emblem and the same painting although there's an array of colors now I understand, that could also be a deterrent. Also it would make it readily identifiable to those of us that drive up and down the roads, all the State cars that we have and maybe their purposes. I think it would serve two purposes. I think that's a very legitimate amendment that ought to be adopted.