

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I rise in support of the amendments that the committee has adopted on LB 23. I support very strongly the efforts of Senator Beutler to try and make this bill a workable reasonable bill and Senator Merz comments concern me. I wasn't going to speak about these amendments but I just want to say that it isn't all right to approve them or not to approve these amendments. In my estimation if these amendments are not approved I can not support the bill because they attempt to clarify some of the problems that I see with the legislation. They do a good job of making a bill that I think is a positive bill for the State of Nebraska an even better bill. Without it though, I think that we are going to have some problems with mopeds in this state so the amendments are very important to me and primarily the point that Senator Merz made was, are we talking about fourteen and fifteen year olds riding mopeds or sixteen year olds and that is the question involved with the amendments and there is more involved in that but I think fundamentally I cannot support allowing fourteen and fifteen years old children in the City of Lincoln and there are other municipalities riding mopeds. I don't think that is safe but these amendments take care of that problem and I think that they are good, so I urge your support for the amendments.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Kahle.

SENATOR KAHLE: Mr. Chairman and members of the body, I have quite an interest in the moped bill in general and I think probably the amendments now have straightened it out and made it a good bill. I think we are making a little bit of a mistake here in thinking that these mopeds are only going to be used by kids. If you have traveled in Europe you will know that there are more adults on them than there are kids and they are a cheap way to move yourself around. I think they are going to go in this country and I am tickled to see that the right laws have been written into this so that it is not a child's toy and they cannot drive them anywhere they want to at any time like they can a bicycle because it is really not a bicycle. They won't go much faster and I think most kids can ride a bicycle just as fast as a moped will go but they do have a little bit more control of them. I think they are a useful piece of equipment and with the gas shortage and the things that we are having I think that we need to get this bill in shape and get it passed. I have ridden a moped and they are certainly no speed demon. You can't go very fast and