

March 29, 1979

LB 575

in this state probably does not impose a fine of more than \$75 or \$100 first offense DWI. How can we take it so lightly? And why do the judges, why does the judiciary take it so lightly? Well, because we are telling them just that. We are telling them from down here in Lincoln, Nebraska, you members of the judiciary, let's not be too tough on those people who are convicted of DWI first offense. Give them a second chance. Well, I will tell you, ladies and gentlemen, you take somebody away from their family for one day, take them away from their television set, take them away from their kids, take them away from their refrigerator and have them go back to work the next day and tell them, well, I couldn't be here at work. I was incarcerated for one day because I was under the influence of alcohol. I am not naive enough to stand here to believe that I have a chance with this particular amendment but I do it only to call this particular matter to your attention, to at least make us aware that we have a crisis right now in this state and yet we continue to ignore it day after day, month after month, year after year. You know, thank God, I have never had anyone in my family killed as a result of a drunken driver but I have talked to other people who have had members of their own family killed as a result of someone driving while under the influence. That is tragic, ladies and gentlemen. That is the most tragic experience anyone could ever hope to live with and yet we continue to condone, yes, indeed, ladies and gentlemen, we condone because we are not doing a darn thing about that girl, about that guy who is driving while under the influence. Oh, don't blame the Legislature. Blame the judges. Well, it is not the judges who are making the laws of this state, ladies and gentlemen, it is us right here. I tried two years ago, I was lucky to get the bill out of committee and I knew what chances it had on the floor of the Legislature and I would suspect that perhaps the majority of the people of this state right now it's not really of a major concern but it is a concern, people. It is a concern to those people who have had first hand experience with that person who has been driving while under the influence. The amendment again, first offense says that that person must go to jail for one day. I think that would be a deterrent. If Senator John had to explain to his wife and to the Legislature why he wasn't here Monday morning or Tuesday, you know I would tell you this, ladies and gentlemen, I think John would be ashamed to come back and to drive again while under the influence. I know I would be.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Venditte, your time is up. Wherever the clapping came from, the Chair cannot permit that according to our rules. We are speaking to LB 575 and we are speaking