

April 19, 1979

LB 395

CLERK: Mr. President, Senator Wesely now moves to amend and those amendments are on page 1445 of the Journal.

SENATOR WESELY: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, if you have a chance to look, what was the page number? 1415?

SPEAKER MARVEL: 1445.

SENATOR WESELY: Page 1445, basically what I have tried to do is to amend and clarify the first section of this bill which is the only section which remains. If you remember this bill deals with two specific problems of traffic safety in Lincoln and in the state. The second section was deleted. That dealt with the school speed zones. The first section dealt with pedestrian rights, pedestrian right-aways and a.. in cross walks. Basically there was a problem raised by Senators Brennan, Vickers and George dealing with how specifically this law applied to different drivers. What I tried to do with the amendment is to specify that when you cross, when you try to cross the street and there were cars that were travelling and they didn't stop either when you were in the lane next to the lane of the car that was travelling down the street was in, or in the lane of traffic that the car was in that the car had to stop. Previously in the bill as it was introduced, if you stepped out in the crosswalk the car had to stop and let you pass and that was all that was to it. This attempts to more clearly define and narrow the application of the bill so that it would only be when a car is going down the street in a lane, say a four lane and you are in the lane on the far right and the guy steps out on the left and tries to cross the street, you could keep going until he was up in the lane right next to yours and then you would have to stop and let him pass. I think that this is a good bill. It was passed unanimously out of the committee. This narrows the application of the bill, more clearly defines it and specifically gives the right away to a pedestrian in a crosswalk. The problem came to me from several of the business areas in my part of town and I think that you will see it any time you try to cross the street out here on K street or 17th. You don't have cars that pay any respect to a pedestrian trying to cross the street. It is as simple as that. The car is king in this state. This bill attempts to deal with that problem and the amendment I hope you will support narrows that and focuses in on the problem.

SENATOR NICHOL PRESIDING

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Kahle, did you want to talk on this amendment?

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