

is my privilege to present Mr and Mrs. Ted Hosick and family from Cambridge. Would you rise so that we may welcome you to the Unicameral? Senator Venditte.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I rise to oppose the advancement of LB 619. I am sure, I wasn't here, first of all, last week to hear all of the debate on the bill but I know from my own personal experience in the area of driver's education and as a driver there is nothing better to drive on, when we are talking about ice, than studded snow tires. I think you have heard facts and figures relative to the stopping distance. It helps increase your stopping distance by as much as twenty percent. It helps to give you better traction by as much as two hundred percent on ice with studded snow tires. I know that these kinds of days don't come very often here in the State of Nebraska, but when they do come, you know it is good to know that you have got studded snow tires to use under those circumstances, and when it comes, there is no warning. It comes with a blink of an eye and the next thing you know you are riding and driving on a sheet of ice. I guess I question the bill even more now since we are exempting, we are exempting certain classifications of people. If you are handicapped or if you are in law enforcement or if you are a part of some kind of a health emergency staff, you are now going to be exempt and I guess, Senator Newell, yes, I would relinquish some of my time, if you perhaps maybe might answer that question. Why are we exempting a particular category of people if there are no safety factors involved and I guess a subsequent question to that, Senator Newell, is how do we define a handicapped person today? In other words, apparently there is something on the books now that qualifies a person to get a handicapped sticker. You know I have seen people driving on handicapped stickers and licenses and you know they get out of the car and walk better than I do but, Senator Newell, yes, I walk funny. Senator Newell, I guess first of all, how does one acquire a handicapped license? Do you have to be physically impaired, in other words, to the point where you have no use of the legs, for example? What is that particular....?

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Newell.

SENATOR NEWELL: There is a statute, Senator Venditte, that defines how that designation is arrived at.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Okay.

SENATOR NEWELL: And my understanding is is that there has