

April 2, 1981

LB 483

CLERK: Mr. President, I have a series of amendments to 483. There are no E & R but I do have an amendment from Senators Maresh and DeCamp to the bill. (See page 1283 of the Legislative Journal.)

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Maresh, do you have an amendment, 483?

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, will the Clerk please read the amendment? Do you want to read the amendment?

CLERK: (Read amendment.)

SENATOR MARESH: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, this was called to my attention by the people in Crete. They are concerned about these mechanical bulls that are brought to the taverns and after the people have a few drinks and they get pretty brave and get hurt on these bulls. At the same time they get the patron to sign an exemption that the place of business will not be liable and I think if you read the material I handed out where this young man fell off of one of these devices and is paralyzed below his neck and I don't think that the state should assume to support these people when they do get hurt, to pay welfare payments to the family that the person can't support and I think that we should require that they carry insurance just like the State Fair when they have these rides. Some of them are hazardous and when people get hurt on the rides the Fair Board is responsible and I think the tavern should be responsible for the injuries that are caused by these mechanical devices, so I move that the amendment be adopted.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. Speaker, members of the body, I read the article that Senator Maresh handed out but you also notice that that gentleman was not satisfied with just one ride or two rides. He got back on again, the urban cowboy, and said, speed it up, I think I can handle it. And what he should have done is gone out here to a rodeo school for a while and learn to ride a calf, a very young one, and then gradually work his way up to the bucking broncos. I don't know how we can legislate for those kinds of things because you can do the same thing if someone is in a tavern and he has a driver's license. So then he goes out and he gets in a car and he goes full speed and suddenly he is a paraplegic or could be. So we are getting down to issues that are difficult to define, yet I empathize with that gentleman because he is going to spend a considerable part of his life in a condition that most of us would not welcome,