

Stoney. (Read title.) The bill was read on January 18. It was referred to the Judiciary Committee for public hearing, Mr. President. The bill was advanced to General File. I have a series of amendments to the bill, Mr. President.

SENATOR CLARK: All right, Senator Stoney, you go ahead and explain the bill and then we have a series of amendments.

SENATOR STONEY: Thank you. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, you will recall yesterday we debated LB 568 which dealt with this issue, the issue of driving while under the influence of alcohol.

SENATOR CLARK: Can you hear anything, Senator Stoney? I can't.

SENATOR STONEY: Pardon me, I can't hear you.

SENATOR CLARK: Can you hear anything? The decorum in here is absolutely lousy. You are all talking at the same time in a tone that is just very disturbing to the Speaker. Please hold it down. Go ahead, Senator Stoney.

SENATOR STONEY: Thank you, Mr. President. To continue, LB 870 is a bill to deal with the issue of those who drive while under the influence of alcohol. We spent considerable time yesterday on LB 568. I would just like to spend some time today to highlight this issue, to properly frame this issue, and explain the difference between the two propositions. I think that both attempt to address the issue of driving while intoxicated. They use divergent ways, however, to accomplish that final purpose. As I mentioned yesterday in opposing the advancement of LB 568, the way that LB 870 would attempt to address the problem is through mandatory jail sentences and also fines. Now the reason that this is important is, ladies and gentlemen, that this proposal as compared to 568 does limit judicial discretion, and I think that there are some positive reasons why such a proposal should be adopted. I don't know whether or not all of you have of recent date considered the seriousness of this problem. Drunk driving is the nation's number one highway safety problem. It is not just a problem in the metropolitan city here in Nebraska but it is a problem in our state, it is a problem nationwide, and it is a problem worldwide to be quite frank. In 1981 46% of Nebraska's fatal accidents involved alcohol, and in the United States in the same year, roughly one-half of all auto deaths were due to drunk driving. Now when you refer to accidents involving motorcycles, that percentage increases to 60%. Nationally on weekend evenings,