

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, I will be very brief at this time. I'm opposed to this bill as I was opposed to the motorcycle helmet law and other matters of that nature. There has not been a time when you've seen automobile dealers and sales persons interested in the safety or welfare of the public, any time except when it affected their pocketbook. Nobody was saying have a mandatory seat belt law, until they talked about having to use the technology that has been developed to ensure or help attempt to ensure safety of people in a vehicle. It is interesting that a couple of months ago on television there was a program which mentioned the thousands of cars purchased by the government, the U.S. government, for its employees, which are equipped with air bags. I don't know how much of this may have been said already, but if it is a repetition, you have to overlook it. So if the air bags are good enough for the government and its employees, they are doing all they can to make sure that the public at large does not receive this benefit. That is a contradictory position. If the government is going to busybody and stick its nose in people's business to this extent, it ought to at least stick its nose in with the intention of bringing into being those circumstances which it feels are suitable for itself and its employees, which is not the case now. I don't know whether anybody offered an amendment that I was thinking of, which is wrist straps, for a person riding a bicycle, so that your hands must stay on the handlebars at all times, all times. I'm opposed to that amendment that took away the requirement for seat belts on motorcycles, or motorboats. I think any vehicle that anybody rides that could come in contact with an object, another vehicle, or an individual, any vehicle ought to be equipped with seat belts, and everybody ought to have to wear them. But you know why they don't care about motorboats? We don't have any motorboat dealers here and they are not talking about putting air bags in motorboats, or any other safety device. If a conservative legislature, such as Nebraska, is going to submit to the government making this imposition, or being the moving force behind it, then the term conservative is going to require some additional definition. But we know that terms are like chameleons, they appear one way today against one background, a different way tomorrow against a different background. But I think this is a very bad bill. It's a bad thing for the Legislature to do. Senator Morehead, if you all are interested in safety, I have a suggestion