

think they ought to be required to wear their safety belts? Never. When did they take an interest when studies indicated that these air bags were a development that could make people more safe in vehicles should there be a crash, certain types of crashes and it was determined that this kind of equipment ought to be placed in these vehicles? But Ronald Reagan, being beholden to the wealthier groups, was prevailed upon to say, if we can persuade people to wear these safety belts, these seat belts, then they won't have to put this equipment in the cars. So the effort was undertaken to get states to pass seat belt laws and we hear all this yammering about safety and the concern for it and there is no concern for safety. You have a law on the books now that makes speeding against the law but you also have a provision which says in case of an accident speed cannot be presumed to be a cause of the accident or used for any other purpose to establish liability or fault. So why are you going to do something like this that Senator Johnson and these others are talking about to comply with what they want at the Department of Transportation, so that the automobile manufacturers will not have to include safety equipment on vehicles. That is why they are doing this. We all know it. This is one of the biggest hoaxes as far as legislation that has come before us in a long time and the thing that is so amazing about it is everybody knows it is a hoax. Everybody knows that safety is not the consideration or the concern. Everybody knows that the automobile industry is trying to continue making as many sales as possible and that is why they want this bill. And the Legislature is going to swallow it. If you are going to swallow it, you at least should not mess up the law as it stands now. Whether or not a person wears a seat belt may play no part whatsoever in terms of the injury that a person receives. Why don't you say if you take the headrest off the back of your seat, which a lot of people do, that can be used to decrease the amount of recovery you can have because maybe you wouldn't have gotten a whiplash if you hadn't taken that headrest off? But have the automobile industry people talked about that? Why don't they say that if you don't have a padded dashboard or if you have something on the dashboard which projects toward you, that mitigates the amount of damage you can recover but do they talk about that? No, because their cars are built with these projections, sharp corners, things which can damage you if you fall against them. They put hazards into their vehicles and are they talking about that? No. Because that doesn't touch their pocketbook.