

on its own merits.

PRESIDENT: Senator Vickers.

SENATOR VICKERS: Mr. President and members, I didn't realize until just now we elected Senator Pappas as Speaker. I just, first of all, I think that it is appropriate to debate any issue that is before this body, and if it takes several hours of debate to get the points of discussion across, I think that is appropriate. I think that is what we are here for and I am certainly not willing to say that simply because we may be holding up some time with this we had ought to just stop and stop debate. The issues that are being discussed I think are important and I don't believe that it is totally watered down even though this bill is probably unenforceable in the end as some people seem to think it is. Senator Chambers' amendment that he has got before you right now, and I attempted to speak on his previous amendment but I think there is a lot of correlation to the two things. Senator Chambers says with this amendment that the driver should not have any points assessed against his license. I support that. Let me point out to you that on your desk you have a two page handout that has got my name at the top of it that says "LB 496, Another Problem". It talks about some of the problems with LB 496 as it is drafted right now. Now it says any driver, okay, over on Section 1 there is a sentence that says "Any driver transporting a child who is four years of age or more but is less than sixteen years of age shall be responsible for securing such child in a safety belt..." and so forth. The question I raise in this handout is, what are we saying to people that have school permits? My children, all three of them, started driving a car when they were 14 years old legally under the laws of the State of Nebraska. Now are you saying to a 14 year old or 15 year old driver that they are responsible, first of all, the law says any driver, they are going to be legally responsible for their brothers or sisters that may be between four and sixteen that are riding with them, and if you think that doesn't happen in rural Nebraska, you are kidding yourself. Of course it happens. Are we saying that that young person, if they happen to be hauling them in a pickup, and they have got three other younger children in the family and they are all riding together, that person 14 or 15 years old is going to have to determine which of the other children he is going to ask to be strapped in when there is only two or three seat belts