

February 11, 1986 LB 524

motion today simply pulling this bill out of the Public Works Committee to give all of us an opportunity to consider the issue in more detail, to give the physicians throughout Nebraska who care so much about this legislation an opportunity to make their case to each of us here in the Legislature. So with that, Mr. President, I would ask the adoption of this motion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Rupp. May I first say the Chair would make this announcement. In the north balcony, we have guests observing the Legislature this morning are 50 members of the Motorcycle Legislative Group and with them is Warren Sheehy, District Representative, and Robert Spidell, State Coordinator. We welcome you to the Legislature. Thank you. Senator Rupp.

SENATOR RUPP: Well, Mr. President, I wish you had waited until after I spoke. I am not quite so sure I am going to make this speech now after you made that introduction but, nevertheless, I will vote to bring this bill out to the floor. I would like to hear more debate on this and I want to explain a little bit why I will vote this way because I did, in fact, vote against the seat belt bill so I have to, I think, explain a little bit to you why I would change my position on this. I want to share with you one of my experiences. I had bought my first motorcycle when I was 14 years old, an old Indian motorcycle. I have owned one ever since then. I bought a big Harley not too many years after that, and today I have got a Honda sitting at home in the garage, and I tell you I have never worn a helmet, but in the last few years I also haven't ridden a motorcycle much. The first letter I ever wrote to my state senator was back in the '60s I think when we either had a helmet bill or we were discussing one here in the Legislature and I wrote the same kind of a letter that so many of you have had and I strongly urged that we not have that imposed upon us and there is no reason that we should have to wear it, et cetera, et cetera, et cetera, and I have driven a motorcycle lots and lots of miles down through the years but I got away with it, I guess, because I lived out in the country and rode in the wide open spaces where we didn't have the traffic and all of the people driving cars and not seeing you, and so forth, like we do in city traffic these days. I think I got a little older and wiser because I kept riding less and less but I didn't have strong feelings about this issue one way or the other. To tell you the truth I maybe