

PRESIDENT: Senator Schmit.

SENATOR SCHMIT: Mr. President and members, I will be very brief. First of all I want to make it damn clear I can live by the rules. I've lived by them many times. I've lived by the 15 minute rule, and I've died by it, and I don't object to it. I do object when the rules are changed in the middle of the game. I learned to play gin rummy with Jules Burbach that way and I never won with Jules. I don't expect to win today. From the standpoint of equity and fairness, we have been extremely fair. We have leaned over backward on this issue from day one. I want to point out that the issue should have been determined when we ran out of time. The Senator from Omaha knew the rules, he ought to play by the rules. He does not do so when it serves his purpose not to play by the rules. When we talk about using up time, that is why I gave the opportunity to bring the bill to the floor with 25 votes. Very few chairmen on this floor would argue that that was not perhaps as fair as you could be. The gentleman from Omaha did not win. If he wins now, I want to tell you one more time, you will debate this issue long and loud, and some of you will not get your bill before the committee. So I would urge you to vote no, and then I would leave the rest of my time to Senator Landis.

PRESIDENT: Senator Landis, you have about 4 minutes.

SENATOR LANDIS: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature, I just voted for reconsideration because there were a lot of people gone that day and there was not a fair chance to establish a legislative majority. That is why I just voted for the reconsideration. I supported the bill the previous time. I'm going to speak now in opposition. I want to give you a different rationale. The rationale for the helmet bill is exactly the same as the rationale for the seat belt bill. Individual choice should be overridden when there is a public well-being, a public cost that is greater than the individual's right in essence to choose for themselves how safe they want to be inside their car or on top of their motorcycle. With me so far? Rationale in essence is the same. The majority's interest is greater than the individual's interest. This Legislature endorsed that theory last year for the seat belt. It is now being asked to endorse that theory for helmets. I'll tell you why right now is not the time to pass this bill, and that is that the