

SENATOR MARSH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We need continuing education and we certainly are supportive of the concept of moving this into the highway safety area. This will continue the education that we are all wanting to encourage. It will encourage quality persons sharing valid information. We as individuals as a personal example are great, but we still will continue for generations to come to need the continuing kinds of education so that we automatically become safety minded, whether it's stepping onto a motorcycle, into a car, truck, bicycle, whatever. So I strongly support LB 1004.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Hoagland, please.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: I wonder if Senator Smith would yield to some questions, Senator Carsten, as one of the co-sponsors of this bill.

SENATOR CARSTEN: Senator Smith, will you respond, please?

SENATOR SMITH: I'll do my best.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Now, Senator Smith, you and I have been discussing the merits of helmet bills versus education for about a year and a half now. Haven't we? And as I understand it, you think that education is the answer to saving lives and that the helmet bill is unnecessary. Is that right?

SENATOR SMITH: I think that education is the key.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Is the key. Now, I gather from our conversations that you agree that we lose more lives than necessary due to head injuries in motorcycle cases. Do you agree basically we do lose lives unnecessarily, your point is simply that education can cure the problem without having to resort to helmets. Is that right?

SENATOR SMITH: My contention is that education is the most important and is the best procedure to use in leading people to be better motorcyclists. I think that motorcyclists have to be defensive drivers and so it is very important that we have a good education program for them.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: All right, now how many lives a year would you estimate that we lose unnecessarily because of