

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. Chairman and members of the Legislature, you remember the other day the argument was that if the bill were enacted we would be out of compliance, and I said we wouldn't. And when I asked Senator Warner when would the speed limit change in this state, and he agreed that it would be September of next year. Now, with Senator Smith's memo, which I passed around, he has to acknowledge that we will not be out of compliance. There is no question about it at all, unless the bill took effect in September and the federal law had not changed. Senator Exon has said that because of what the Legislature has done it strengthens what he is trying to do in Washington. Our action will help bring about a change in the situation whereby states can raise their speed limits without the threat of losing federal funds. But I'm going to make a statement that will shock Senator Warner down to his shoe leather, and he ought to know this because he's informed, but obviously he doesn't. Maryland and two other states have been officially certified out of compliance, and have been out of compliance for months. And while others are talking I'll get the World Herald article that points it out. And not a penny has been taken from any of those states. And the federal government is shaky because they said if they attempted to take the funds and a state challenged them in court the state could win. And if the state won all of these types of programs that are mandated, based on the threat of loss of federal funds, would be out the window because states do not enact these types of programs as a result of studies and reaching a mature decision that these programs ought to be in place. The speed limit in Nebraska is 55 not out of safety considerations, not out of talk or consideration of a so called fuel crisis, but because the federal government said if you don't put your speed limit at 55 you lose money. All these other talks and supposed rationales are after the fact. If we put the bill in place it will help the effort at the federal level. It will not hurt the state at all, and it will save us money should the federal law be...the speed limit be increased. We already have had a bill printed, we have had a hearing. It is before us now and has been printed. So for those conservatives who like to save money, there is no need to duplicate that process. But I would just like to mention something to you from a World Herald editorial...article that appeared on the 10th of April. They were giving some statistics on the number of deaths from accidents. I had said that the vast majority of fatalities occur on roads other than the interstate. For the whole State of Nebraska, in 1985, the number of traffic deaths was 237. The number on the interstate was 11. In Douglas County the total