

really a 50% figure charged up to the alcohol driver and I don't want to really try to get into discrediting those figures but I do say that if there are other fields and other areas that are responsible for traffic fatalities, these should be exposed. LB 66 is set up to do specifically that, to try to get some type of program started in the State of Nebraska for an in depth investigation into this problem. Therefore I would move that, and hope that in your sincere efforts and I would hope you could be sincere about this and try to bring it up so that we could carry on this fight against the highway fatalities with another little segment of what's so important to us people or we people in the highway safety field. I'd move for the adoption.

PRESIDENT: Any further discussion of Senator Barnett's motion? Senator Epke, did you wish to be heard on Senator Barnett's motion here?

SENATOR EPKE: Mr. President and fellow Members. I was a member of the committee that heard this bill. Senator Schmit isn't here. He's chairman of the committee and I kinda would like to make my views know. When we heard this bill in committee, it never was definitely proved to me what they needed the statistics for. They had, of course, part of the information we had, it showed that there are Federal statistics out on what percent of accidents are directly caused by drinking. A representative from the City of Lincoln testified and he said that they had shelves full of statistics. It just kinda looked to me like they had about all the statistics they needed and didn't need any more. Now maybe they're trying to use this to prove something that hasn't been proven but it certainly wasn't brought out in the committee. Also, they, they didn't explain who would take these blood samples and I certainly think that they're going to have to designate someone--there isn't, I don't think the undertaker's going to take these blood samples. Also, they, there was some argument against the bill as far as the religious aspects of it. All in all, we just weren't definitely shown that, that it was necessary to do this. Also, once you have the statistics which I think we do have, showing how many of the accidents are caused by drinking, why then you've got to have a program set up to follow up on this. They had nothing to show us that they were going to do anything after they had the statistics. All in all, I could see no need for the bill and that was why I voted against it.

PRESIDENT: Senator Dickinson, then Rasmussen, Fellman, Nore, Keim.

SENATOR DICKINSON: Mr. Speaker and Members of the body. I want to mostly concur in what Senator Epke is saying and since our chairman is not here, I think there might be a couple more points that should be brought out. We did hold this bill for a long time waiting for its introducer and other supporters to bring us more information and try to con-convince us that, that it was needed. I'd like to mention that the mail and I did receive quite a bit of mail about supporting this bill, but these people writing these letters did not obviously, obviously did not understand the purpose the bill. They thought that the blood tests could be used as evidence to prosecute the law violators and this was not the intent at all as we all learned to know more about it. It seems to me that this material that Senator Barnett himself distributed to our desks this morning more or less contradicts his purpose in that it says and I call your attention to the, to the last two or three paragraphs, that the disappointing fact about these statistics is that nothing's being done in the courts, they say, in effect. The last paragraph says that drinking drivers are the major menace of the highway is public record now. The next step is to do something about it, a problem that demands individual as well as governmental attention. Well this is pretty much the conclusion of the committee. We just didn't see any need for the bill so I