

April 15, 1975

Now if we want to flex our muscles and test Uncle Sam, why don't we do it on something that doesn't have the fiscal impact that this has on our state. Let's face the responsibility ourselves as legislators, so our Governor won't have to go back begging, as he did last year, for the money, apologizing for what we should have done, and the responsibility we should have taken ourselves, rather than put the Governor on the spot and have him go back to the Federal government and say I'm sorry, the Legislature didn't do what's necessary but we want the money anyway. I don't want to go back to the people in Nebraska and say, no we haven't fought for our \$7 million. Now just a day or so ago, in fact it's still in the mill I guess, we have \$20 million that we're going to put out in bonds for road construction. Any of you know, who have been associated with road construction or road maintenance, what the cost is. We need our \$7 million. I think we ought to get it. Yesterday I talked with Senator Carl Curtis because I talked to him a few days ago when he was here to ask him to look into the situation of whether the Federal government was really concerned about our passing this bill, or whether we could get by as we did last year by saying no, we're not going to comply with what the rules and regulations are, but we want the money. So he went back and he visited with the people who are in control of this. Now he told me yesterday at 3:25 in the afternoon that he had talked with former Governor Tiemann, and that Governor Tiemann . . . former Governor Tiemann was still on our side and that he would do everything he could to get the money for us whether or not we passed the bill. However, his boss is Undersecretary Barnum. Barnum listens to a man by the name of Doctor James Gregory. Doctor James Gregory says that he is recommending sanction, which means simply that we either pass the motorcycle helmet law, or we don't get the money. There doesn't seem to be any question about whether we're going to do this and get the money, or whether we're going kick it out the window. In closing, Mrs. Marsh and fellow legislators, I urge you to vote forward LB 328 and to ask our motorcycle friends to help us out this year in getting the money. Thank you.

SENATOR SAVAGE: I have a number of lights on starting with Senator Chambers, Kremer, Burbach, Lewis, Marsh and Koch. Senator Chambers.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think we'll have a rehearsal today of what happened the day before. That's what happens when you're in a legislative assembly like this. Before we proceed I'd like a ruling. How many votes will it take for this reconsideration?

SENATOR SAVAGE: 25.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Members of the Legislature, I'm opposed to the reconsideration. I've stated before that if a principle was correct three weeks ago, it's correct today. Senator Nichol is not pretending to make his argument on the basis of safety that these helmets provide. He is purely and simply arguing from the standpoint of money. The price tag which the Legislature should place on its prerogatives is \$7 million. There is no certainty, even in the Governor's statements, or Senator Nichol's, Senator Curtis', or anybody else's that \$7 million will be kept from the state. But even if it is I didn't vote to kill this bill merely as a challenge to the Federal govern-