

might literally fall within one phrase or another of the statute. Whenever we write laws, whenever we try to apply general language to specific situations, we have difficulty and the language can be criticized and we have that with this bill as with a lot of other bills. But the essential thrust of the problem is that it is currently illegal to consume alcohol while you are driving a car or while you are in a car on a public roadway. But experience has shown through the years that that provision is simply not enforceable. It has been on the books since 1935, since 1935 we first passed a law making it illegal to consume alcohol on a public street while in a vehicle. But the problem we had is with the word "consumption". Consumption requires that the police officers observe somebody drinking before them. Many other states have gotten around that problem by having laws that prohibit possession of an open container within the reach of the driver. That is all Senator Sieck's bill does. I think it is...I don't know why we feel the need to defend that kind of activity. I don't know why we feel the need to make it sound as if the values of the civil libertarians are on the line with respect to a bill like this. I think any responsible driver is not going to want people drinking alcohol in his car or her car within the reach of the driver. I think that is an obligation, a duty that we can impose on drivers legitimately in this body. It really is the intent of the laws of the State of Nebraska to impose that kind of obligation on them anyway. It is an enforcement problem, at least to the necessity for this kind of a law. I personally am not troubled with it at all. I think it makes sense. I think it is going to decrease the amount of drinking and driving we have on the streets in Nebraska that is ultimately going to save lives. I really see no point in our not supporting this. I particularly see no point in our spending a great deal of time debating it. I would urge you to vote against this kill motion and to advance this bill. Thank you.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Haberman, please.

SENATOR HABERMAN: Mr. President and members of the body, here a few years ago we passed a DWI bill and since there has been a big push put on to...if somebody becomes intoxicated in a bar, take him home. Get somebody to take him home. Maybe the bartender has a friend, call a cab, or maybe it is my friend. Or maybe somebody in the bar got to talking to this fellow and he says, hey, it is time to go