

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. I want Senator Sieck to know that this is not a personal thing with me, that it is merely...I voted for his bill in Exec Session. I voted for the amendments and I had every intention of voting for the bill until this special amendment got added on when only about half the Legislature was present this afternoon that would make the driver the guilty one even though he had been one of those people in a group. In Omaha they have started groups of people where they will go out together and say, okay, it is agreed tonight, Emil Beyer, you drink nothing but Seven-up and the rest of them can drink and not worry about DWI's. What you will do with this bill is discourage that if you are going to hold the driver responsible.

SPEAKER NICHOL: (Gavel.) Could we please have it a little quieter, please. (Gavel.) Don't have your attention yet. (Gavel.) Let's have it quieter for the speakers. Thank you.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is the one thing I would like you to think about. Think of all those cars coming from North Platte, Grand Island, Kearney, Hastings, Omaha, on a football Saturday, station wagons, vans, recreational vehicles, bumper to bumper to bumper. Now the main purpose of this bill Senator Sieck has stated over and over again is to make the law more enforceable that is already in the statutes. We already have a law against drinking in a vehicle while it is moving. Can you honestly say I am stretching a point when I say that those vehicles bumper to bumper that the highway patrol is actually going to be able to enforce such a law on those football Saturdays or whenever there is a big rodeo out in Burwell, or Lincoln Pershing Auditorium is going to have some big rock group here? Do you really honestly believe this bill will make it more enforceable? That was the stated purpose. We already have the law that says you cannot drive in a...you cannot drink in a car, in a moving vehicle. Senator Hoagland said in a moving vehicle. I guess you can drink in a vehicle if you pull over. Do you realize that I can walk down the streets of Lincoln right now totally and completely drunk as a skunk, as they say, and I cannot be arrested for it because we cannot arrest people for public drunkenness. If we do, the federal government will withdraw all of the federal aid we get for our alcohol treatment programs. But if I sit inside of a