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February 17, 1998 LB 320

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislature, I'd like to ask Senator Bohlke a question, if I may.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Bohlke, would you respond?

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Senator Bohlke, what is the age of the young people we're dealing with in LB 320? Between which ages are those young people?

SENATOR BOHLKE: It would impact the ages between 16 and 18.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. And between those ages, we've made a violation an infraction rather than a misdemeanor, is that correct?

SENATOR BOHLKE: That's correct.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Thank you. Members of the Legislature, we have said that those who are 16 and 18 will be guilty of an infraction. Senator Bromm wants to say that those who are younger than 16 should be guilty of a crime. Does that make sense to any of you all? Have any of you all received the kind of mail that I've gotten, where people are concerned about children being saddled with a crime for a traffic infraction? Remember this, if one is driving drunk, that is a different offense, that's not what we're talking about. If one commits motor vehicular homicide, that's not what we're talking about, none of those kind of things. I'm kind of surprised, to be frank about it, at Senator Bromm this morning, because his position just doesn't make sense. Maybe somebody else has put a bug in his ear. But it does not make sense to me to say those that we can attribute more maturity to will be guilty of an infraction, and those who are younger will be guilty of a crime. My amendment deals with those younger than 16. Who in this body, besides Senator Bromm and his staff, want to put a crime on somebody younger than 16 for violating a driving permit? But on the chance that those in rural areas have a different point of view than others, I have divided the question. Senator Bromm mentioned that he had lived on a farm and therefore some of these permits that relate to driving these farm vehicles should